HOPE SECRETS

dag heward-mills

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Dag Heward-Mills

Parchment House

Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Hope Secrets

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Chapter 1
Expect A Good Outcome

FOR WE ARE SAVED BY HOPE: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Romans 8:24-25

Hope is a powerful spiritual force that helps people persevere through difficulties and stay motivated. Hope is an expectation of a good outcome! Hope is the expectation of good things in the future.

People are rescued from crises through their hope. We are indeed more likely to be saved when there is hope of a good outcome.

Hope is an important thing for your life. Faith is different from hope. Faith is your obedience to God. Hope is an expectation of a good outcome. Hope increases survival rates. Even animals that believe in a positive outcome endure longer and try harder.

Hopelessness leads to giving up. When animals (or humans) learn that escape or relief is impossible, they stop trying.

Let's see what the Bible says about hope.

1. **Hope is an expectation of a good outcome, of good things in the future.**

   For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE.

   Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

   Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NASB95)

HOPE EXPERIMENT No.1:

Curt Richter's Drowning Rat Experiment (1950)

Dr. Curt Richter, a Harvard-trained scientist, conducted a study on wild rats to explore the effects of hope on survival.

The Procedure:

a. He placed rats in a bucket of water to see how long they could swim before giving up and drowning.

b. Wild rats, known for their survival instincts, typically drowned within a few minutes, seemingly overwhelmed by hopelessness.

c. In a second trial, when he rescued the rats just before they drowned, he dried them off, let them rest, and then put them back in the water, they swam for much longer than before - sometimes up to 60 hours.

The Conclusion:

a. The rats that had been saved before, learned to hope.

b. The expectation of something good increased the rat's ability to survive.

c. Hope, (the expectation of a good outcome) increases persistence and survival.

d. Hopelessness makes people surrender. Without hope, even the strongest give up quickly.

e. Terminally ill patients live longer if they have hope.

2. Hope is an expectation of a good outcome, of good things in the future.

Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also MY FLESH SHALL REST IN HOPE.

Acts 2:26

The flesh is affected by hope. Hope is an expectation of good things. Hope improves the survival of people who are terminally ill.

HOPE EXPERIMENT No.2:

Martin Seligman's Learned Helplessness Experiment (1967)

Psychologist Martin Seligman conducted experiments on dogs to study the effects of hope.

The Procedure:

a. Dogs were placed in a box with two compartments separated by a low barrier. One group of dogs received electric shocks and could escape by jumping over the barrier, while another group was restrained and could not escape.

b. Later, when all the dogs were given a way to escape, those that had previously experienced inescapable shocks did not even try to escape, even though they could.

c. In contrast, dogs that had previously been able to avoid the shock by jumping continued to try and escape when shocked again.

The Conclusion:

a. Animals (and humans) can learn hopelessness if they experience repeated failure.

b. Hope is necessary for motivation - when an animal believes escape is possible, it tries to survive. When an animal does not have hope, it gives up even when survival is within reach.

3. Hope is an expectation of a good outcome, of good things in the future.

> WHO AGAINST HOPE BELIEVED IN HOPE, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; BUT WAS STRONG IN FAITH, GIVING GLORY TO GOD;
>
> Romans 4:18-20

It is only the hopeful that have strong faith. It is because Abraham was hopeful that he had strong faith. Hope helps people to have faith in God. The expectation of good in the future makes people stronger in their faith in the word of God. The word of God has many nice promises but people who are not hopeful do not believe them.

HOPE EXPERIMENT No.3:

Stress and Hope in Monkeys Experiment (Harlow, 1950s)

Harry Harlow studied infant monkeys raised with different types of "surrogate mothers" (one made of wire, one covered in cloth).

The Procedure:

a. When faced with stressful situations, monkeys raised with the soft, comforting mother showed more resilience and hope, actively seeking comfort and exploring their environment.

b. Those raised without comfort displayed hopelessness, withdrawal,

and anxiety in stressful conditions.

The Conclusion:

a. Hope and emotional security increase resilience to stress and hardship.

b. Comfort and support systems (even artificial ones) encourage survival behaviour and reduce despair.

c. This research influenced our understanding of human attachment, mental health, and coping mechanisms.

4. Hope is an expectation of a good outcome, of good things in the future.

Which hope we have as AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Hebrews 6:19

Hope is an anchor and stabiliser of people when they are completely rocked with the waves and storms of life.

5. Hope is an expectation of a good outcome, of good things in the future.

BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

Hope keeps a man alive! Hope helps people to be strong enough to survive and to endure whatever they have to go through.

6. Hope is an expectation of a good outcome, of good things in the future.

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and REJOICE IN HOPE of the glory of God.

Romans 5:2

REJOICING IN HOPE; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Romans 12:12

Hope makes people happy and cheerful. Hope causes people to have a good and thankful attitude all the time.

Chapter 2
God is Taking You Through a Test

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

God has a great desire for you to be fruitful. He will do everything so that you bear fruit. Just as a farmer does everything he can to his field and his farm so that they bear maximum fruits, God is taking you through various things so that you will bear the maximum fruit.

1. **You are a pilgrim. A pilgrim is a person who is on a long journey to a great spiritual destination. Indeed, you are on a long journey to arrive at a destination of humility, holiness, love and faith.**

   DEARLY BELOVED, I BESEECH YOU AS STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

   1 Peter 2:11-12

2. **Tests are a part of this great pilgrimage. Access to many places will be through tests that you will experience. You will be tested with trials, difficulties and tribulations. If you pass these tests, you will enter many good places in the ministry.**

   And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that WE MUST THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

   Acts 14:21-22

3. **The story of Job shows us for eternity that God will initiate numerous tests on righteous people. Are you a righteous man? Are you one of God's servants? Have you been following Jesus? Then expect that God Himself will initiate tests on your life to enable you come up in His sight as a worthy and qualified**

servant.

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO SATAN, HAST THOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT JOB, THAT THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM IN THE EARTH, A PERFECT AND AN UPRIGHT MAN, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

Job 1:8-12

4. **The story of Job also shows us for all eternity that satan is the implementer of many tests.**

And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. AND THE LORD SAID UNTO SATAN, BEHOLD, ALL THAT HE HATH IS IN THY POWER; ONLY UPON HIMSELF PUT NOT FORTH THINE HAND. SO SATAN WENT FORTH FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

Job 1:8-12

God has a policy of testing His servants so that He can promote them. Satan is happy to implement these tests for completely different reasons and he gleefully watches God's servants pass through turmoil and tests of their lives. This is why in the story of Job; we see the involvement of both God and satan.

Many things that happen in your life are tests. I can understand your confusion as you ask, "Is this God? Is God doing something or is the devil at work in my life?"

Indeed, from the story of Job, we see that both God and the devil are involved in tests but for different reasons, just as a man and a woman are involved in a marriage, but for different reasons. The man is involved in

his wedding hoping for sexual happiness, comforts and delights whilst the woman is involved in the wedding hoping to live happily ever after even though she may lack the ability or the desire to learn how to keep a home.

5. The story of Abraham as told in some ancient books also confirms how tests are part of the journey to greatness in the realm of the spirit.

Testing Abraham

And it came to pass in the seventh week, in the first year thereof, in the first month in this jubilee, on the twelfth of this month, THERE WERE VOICES IN HEAVEN REGARDING ABRAHAM, *that he was faithful in all that He told him, and that he loved the Lord, and that in every affliction he was faithful.*

And the prince Mastêmâ came and said before God, "Behold, Abraham loveth Isaac his son, and he delighteth in him above all things else; bid him offer him as a burnt-offering on the altar, and Thou wilt see if he will do this command, and Thou wilt know if he is faithful in everything wherein Thou dost try him."

AND THE LORD KNEW THAT ABRAHAM WAS FAITHFUL IN ALL HIS AFFLICTIONS; FOR HE HAD TRIED HIM THROUGH HIS COUNTRY AND WITH FAMINE, AND HAD TRIED HIM WITH THE WEALTH OF KINGS, AND HAD TRIED HIM AGAIN THROUGH HIS WIFE, WHEN SHE WAS TORN (FROM HIM), AND WITH CIRCUMCISION, AND HAD TRIED HIM THROUGH ISHMAEL AND HAGAR, HIS MAID-SERVANT, WHEN HE SENT THEM AWAY.

And in everything wherein He had tried him, he was found faithful, and his soul was not impatient, and he was not slow to act; for he was faithful and a lover of the Lord (Jubilees 17:15-18).[1]

As we see in the text above, Abraham was tested in many ways. This is how the life of a spiritual pilgrim is - there are many varied tests. It becomes clear with time how almost everything is a test and how tests are continuous and unrelenting throughout life; and how both God and satan are involved in testing you but for different reasons. You will notice that as in a school where there are continuous assessments, repeated examinations, interim assessments and so on, life on earth is like life in school – it is also a continuous series of examinations.

6. The story of Jesus in the wilderness shows us that the Holy Spirit will lead God's servants to places of repeated and severe testing. God's humble servants will be tested over and over again, proving them and assuring their quality.

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Matthew 4:1

[1] The Book of Jubilees, in The Pseudepigrapha, accessed 8 July 2025, https://pseudepigrapha.com/jubilees/17.html.

7. Tests can also come because through the envy of others.

Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? FOR HE KNEW THAT FOR ENVY THEY HAD DELIVERED HIM.

Matthew 27:17-18

The Pharisees were a temptation to Jesus because they were filled with envy. Satan tests you because, as a failed servant himself, he is envious of your relationship with God.

8. Perhaps today, you are simply going through a test of your strength and constancy.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7:24-27

God allows tests of your strength, your faithfulness and constancy. God wants to see how you will survive the storms and the winds. God wants to see how much pressure you can take.

9. Perhaps today you are just going through a test of your humility.

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, TO HUMBLE THEE, AND TO PROVE THEE, TO KNOW WHAT WAS IN THINE HEART, WHETHER THOU WOULDEST KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, OR NO. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with

manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

Deuteronomy 8:1-3

Tests may come to prove your humility and your dependence on God. What you are experiencing today may be a humility test.

10. Perhaps today you are going through a test to see if you can trust God for finances. What you are experiencing today may be a financial test.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, AND PROVE ME NOW HEREWITH, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS, IF I WILL NOT OPEN YOU THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:8-10

11. Perhaps today God is just testing you to see if you are qualified for the ministry. Are you qualified to be in the ministry? Are you qualified to belong to a church?

Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. AND LET THESE ALSO FIRST BE PROVED; THEN LET THEM USE THE OFFICE OF A DEACON, being found blameless.

1 Timothy 3:9-10

12. Perhaps today, you are just experiencing the test of Marah. Marah is a test where you are led by the Spirit of God and brought directly to a bitter pool. God is the One who led the Israelites to Marah.

AND WHEN THEY CAME TO MARAH, THEY COULD NOT DRINK OF THE WATERS OF MARAH, FOR THEY WERE BITTER: THEREFORE THE NAME OF IT WAS CALLED MARAH. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, AND THERE HE PROVED THEM, And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that

which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee. And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.

Exodus 15:23-27

Unfortunately, the Israelites failed the test of Marah and descended into complaining and murmuring. It was not satan who led the Israelites to that place of bitterness. Have you been brought to a place of bitterness? Is your soul full of bitterness and pain?

It will amaze you to know that God does lead His people to pools of bitter water in order to test them. After this test in Marah He told the Israelites He would be their healer if they trusted Him and followed Him without murmuring. The blessing for passing this test of Marah was divine healing.

13. Perhaps today, God is just testing you with the presence of certain enemies.

Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. I WILL USE THEM TO TEST ISRAEL AND SEE WHETHER THEY WILL KEEP THE WAY OF THE LORD AND WALK IN IT AS THEIR ANCESTORS DID." The Lord had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

Judges 2:20-23 (NIV)

The presence of people who hate you is truly uncomfortable. It is an unpleasant experience to be near clearly identified enemies. Everybody wants to be near his friends. You are definitely experiencing a test when you are constantly in the presence of enemies.

14. Perhaps, today, God is just testing you with mirth, with wealth and with riches.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, CHOKE THE WORD, and he becometh unfruitful.

Many demonic tests come through wealth and riches. The seeds which fell amongst deceptive riches were choked into non-existence. Riches and wealth are definitely chokers for God's servants. Many servants of God survive the test of poverty but fail the test of riches.

"Babylon the great" fell because the kings of the earth had become rich through her delicacies. The riches that people experienced through Babylon had become a source of great testing and destruction for the entire city. Demons had inhabited the city; foul birds had made the city their stronghold. Indeed, Babylon had become the habitation of devils because of the riches that had come to the city.

> And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, BABYLON THE GREAT IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and THE MERCHANTS OF THE EARTH ARE WAXED RICH THROUGH THE ABUNDANCE OF HER DELICACIES.
>
> Revelation 18:1-3

15. One of the great tests of your life and ministry is the test of mirth and pleasure.

> I said in mine heart, Go to now, I WILL PROVE THEE WITH MIRTH, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity. I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it? I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their lives.
>
> Ecclesiastes 2:1-3

When God gives you pleasure, happiness and mirth, it remains to be seen whether you will remain on course. Most people who are given the great privilege of having lots of pleasure, happiness and mirth forget about God and turn to evil. People who endure great suffering often turn to God but people who enjoy lots of pleasures, luxuries and jollity often turn away from the Lord.

Chapter 3
God is Changing Your Rank

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

2 Corinthians 4:17

1. There are various ranks in the realm of the spirit.

> Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. THEY SHALL RUN LIKE MIGHTY MEN; THEY SHALL CLIMB THE WALL LIKE MEN OF WAR; AND THEY SHALL MARCH EVERY ONE ON HIS WAYS, AND THEY SHALL NOT BREAK THEIR RANKS:
>
> Joel 2:1-7

A change of rank always comes after a test. That is why we are encouraged to pass our tests well. God is promoting you so that He can change your rank.

In the prophetic book of Joel, a spiritual army is described. A key characteristic of the spiritual army is their ability to run without breaking rank. God has given you a rank in the realm of the spirit and you will have to operate in the realm and rank you are given.

2. God teaches us to war and to fight using the principles of keeping rank.

Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart. And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield

and spear thirty and seven thousand. And of the Danites expert in war twenty and eight thousand and six hundred. And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, forty thousand. And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle, an hundred and twenty thousand. ALL THESE MEN OF WAR, THAT COULD KEEP RANK, CAME WITH A PERFECT HEART TO HEBRON, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.

1 Chronicles 12:33-38

A change of rank always comes after a test. That is why you are encouraged to pass your tests well. God is testing you so He can promote you and change your rank.

In your war, you will need to learn how to keep rank. One of the important principles of belonging to an army is to keep rank.

3. Evil spirits understand the principle of rank.

And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, MY NAME IS LEGION: for we are many.

Mark 5:9

God wants you to be at a higher rank when you tackle the enemy. A change of rank always comes after a test. Do not run away from your test! When the seven sons of Sceva attempted to cast out devils, they had the shock of their lives. The demons knew the rank of the seven sons of Sceva. "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" (Acts 19:15). Demons know those Christians who are at a higher rank and those on a lower rank.

When the demons answered Jesus, "MY NAME IS LEGION", they were actually saying, "WE ARE A ROMAN REGIMENT." (A legion was a body of soldiers whose number differed at different times. In the time of Augustus, it consisted of 6826 men, 6100-foot soldiers, and 726 horsemen.) The demons were saying "We are a military grouping! WE UNDERSTAND RANK AND WE KNOW WHO WE ARE TALKING TO." Demons think in terms of rank and are organized into military groupings. You must be careful as you tackle evil powers, knowing that rank is an important thing in the realm of the spirit.

4. At various times, God promotes His servants and raises the rank of His servants.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

2 Corinthians 4:17

We have small troubles for a while now, but these troubles are helping us gain an eternal glory. That eternal glory is much greater than our troubles.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (ERV)

God raises the rank and weight of His servants by the afflictions that they pass through. Every affliction you survive gives you more weight. In the realm of the spirit, everyone has a level of weighted glory. The level of weighted glory you carry determines your rank in the realm of the spirit.

5. You will be promoted into higher ranks of ministry.

And when THE CHIEF SHEPHERD shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 5:4

All pastors can be promoted to a higher rank. There are greater pastors and lesser ones too. Promotion is something that must happen in your life and ministry.

6. All apostles are not the same.

I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind THE VERY CHIEFEST APOSTLES, though I be nothing.

2 Corinthians 12:11

Some apostles have been promoted to a higher rank. There are greater apostles and lesser ones. There are higher ranks amongst the apostles. There are senior ranking apostles in the ministry. Satan knows this well and he does not want you to be promoted.

7. There are higher and higher ranks amongst the priests.

Now when the HIGH PRIEST AND THE CAPTAIN OF THE TEMPLE and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

Acts 5:24

All priests are not the same. There are greater priests and lesser priests. There are higher and higher ranks in the ministry. There are senior

ranking high priests, and there are captains of the temple.

8. There are senior ranking speakers and preachers.

And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was THE CHIEF SPEAKER.

Acts 14:12

May you become a senior ranking preacher! A higher-ranking speaker will have a greater effect when he speaks. Paul was a chief speaker!

9. You must pass your tests now and be promoted to the next rank.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:2-4

How do you pass tests so that you change your rank? You pass your tests when you count it all joy and grow in patience towards God. Passing tests means that you go through with patience and without any bad attitude. The word "patience" means cheerful, hopeful endurance. If you are not cheerful and hopeful in what you are experiencing, you have failed your test.

10. You must rejoice in times of testing because the tests cause you to qualify for promotion.

And not only so, but WE GLORY IN TRIBULATIONS ALSO: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:3-5

Every test works a promotion in you through patience and through quiet, cheerful and hopeful endurance! We glory in our tribulations because these qualities necessary for promotion are being confirmed in us by every test.

Chapter 4
What It Means to Have a Higher Rank

Wherefore God also hath HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:9-10

You must desire that your rank changes. A change in rank only comes about because you have passed difficult tests. It is of utmost importance that your rank changes because without a change in rank, there will be no change in many aspects of your life. It is of utmost importance that you go through your difficulties, trials and temptations successfully. This is going to result in a change in rank.

You will know your rank has changed when you notice important changes in your life, that can only come about because your rank has changed. A change of rank is seen in many ways. When Jesus was highly exalted after His victory on the cross, He experienced a change in rank. The change of rank that Jesus experienced resulted in many changes in His life. Let us see how a change in rank brings about changes in your life and ministry. I am only writing these things so that you watch out for genuine changes in your rank!

1. A change in rank results in a change in income.

> And they sung a new song, saying, THOU ART WORTHY to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, WORTHY IS THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN TO RECEIVE POWER, AND RICHES, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.
>
> Revelation 5:9-12

There is always more money at a higher rank. Jesus became worthy to

receive riches because His rank changed. You will become worthy and qualified to receive a higher income and more money when your rank changes. Your level of income is not changing because your rank is not changing.

When a medical student becomes a doctor after seven years of medical school, his income changes. His rank in society changes from the rank of a student to the rank of a medical doctor. This goes immediately with a change in income. You will notice a financial change in your life and ministry when your rank changes.

2. A change in rank results in a change in the level of respect and honour.

> Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?... And THEY WILL SALUTE THEE, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.
>
> 1 Samuel 10:1, 4

When Saul was anointed, his rank changed from a common citizen of Israel to the king. When his rank changed, he was respected and honoured much more by the people. People began to salute him because he had a higher rank. Beginning from today, your rank will change and your level of respect will change. You will no longer be set aside and ignored. I was set aside and ignored for many years of ministry. As I moved up in rank, I received more and more respect from people who once despised me.

3. A change in rank results in a change in positioning in society.

> Wherefore God also hath HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
>
> Philippians 2:9-10

When your rank changes in the realm of the spirit, your position in society will also change. Perhaps, you are at the lower end of the society. As you go higher in God, you will find your position in society also changing. Instead of being ignored and set aside, you will be welcomed in the higher echelons of society.

When a student becomes a medical doctor, his position in society changes. He is no longer reckoned amongst students but amongst the privileged

fraternity of doctors.

4. A change in rank results in a change in where you sit and who you meet.

> And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spake unto David my father, saying, THY SON WHOM I WILL SET UPON THY THRONE in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.
>
> 1 Kings 5:5

When your rank changes you will be given a new seat amongst a new group. As a newly qualified doctor, you will no longer sit amongst students but amongst doctors. Today, I sit amongst the pastors because my rank has changed. I have been promoted from sitting in the general congregation to sitting alongside other pastors in the front row of the church. All these are signs of my change of rank.

5. A change in rank results in a change in the kind of gifts you receive.

> And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the Lord; there was no more spirit in her. And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom. BLESSED BE THE LORD THY GOD, WHICH DELIGHTED IN THEE, TO SET THEE ON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL: because the Lord loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice. And SHE GAVE THE KING AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY TALENTS OF GOLD, AND OF SPICES VERY GREAT STORE, AND PRECIOUS STONES: THERE CAME NO MORE SUCH ABUNDANCE OF SPICES as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.
>
> 1 Kings 10:4-10

When you are operating at a higher rank in the realm of the spirit, you will see greater and greater gifts being given to you. There is a correlation between your rank and the kinds of gifts you receive in your life. It does not occur to anyone to give you certain kinds of gifts because of your lower rank. When your rank changes in the realm of the spirit, no

one will advise anyone to give you greater gifts. It will just happen naturally.

6. A change in rank results in a change in the power and authority of your words.

> For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I SAY UNTO ONE, GO, AND HE GOETH; AND TO ANOTHER, COME, AND HE COMETH; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.
>
> Luke 7:8-9

When your rank changes, your words and commands are taken more seriously.

Like newly qualified doctors, a change of rank comes with a change of the power and authority in your words. A medical student may suggest a treatment. However, no one may take him seriously. The more senior and the more experienced a doctor is, the more people take his advice seriously.

When a pastor has a high rank, there is a greater impact from his messages, teachings, instructions, commands, directives and preaching. As you climb higher in God, your words may be fewer but they will have a greater impact.

7. A change in rank results in a change of name.

> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, THAT THOU ART PETER, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
>
> Matthew 16:17-18

A change of rank often comes with a change of name. Peter was promoted to be the head of the church and was given a new name. When Peter received a new name, it was because his rank had changed. Like newly qualified doctors, a change of rank comes with a change of name. When I was in medical school, I was called, "Mills." When I became a doctor, I was called "Dr. Mills." There are people who desperately want to be called "Father" or "Papa." Do not worry about being called, "Papa." When your rank changes in the realm of the spirit, you will not have to tell people to call you Papa or Daddy.

When your rank has changed in the realm of the spirit, anyone who interacts with you will know that they are standing before a father and they will acknowledge you as such.

8. A change in rank results in a change in the access you have.

> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
>
> Matthew 16:17-19

When you are at a higher rank, you have greater access to certain places. In the realm of the spirit, you will have greater access to the throne of God. You will have a greater access to God's presence. You will switch faster from the flesh into the spirit.

Like newly qualified doctors, a change of rank comes with a change in the keys you carry. A doctor will have access to the doctors' lounge just because he is a doctor. When he was a medical student, he was cut off from all the places where doctors were allowed to go. Indeed, a change in rank will change the access you have to important places.

9. A change in rank results in a change in your glory.

> This light, temporary nature of our suffering is producing for us an everlasting weight of glory, far beyond any comparison,
>
> 2 Corinthians 4:17 (ISV)

A change in rank and glory will come about because of the sufferings you have been through and what you have survived. A change in rank is seen by a change in the glory. A change in rank is seen by a change in the level of beauty and glory in your life. A soldier who has a higher rank has more stripes, more pips, more studs and more decorations. He is called a highly decorated soldier! Receive a greater glory on your life, beginning from now!

10. A change in rank results in a change in your privileges.

And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Jesus Christ was considered worthy to open the Book of Life. What a privilege! A change in your rank in the ministry is going to lead to many more privileges.

Like newly qualified doctors, a change of rank comes with more privileges. A doctor will have privileged access to patients, access to doctors' lounges, access to doctors' parking spaces and so on.

Chapter 5
The Next Step in Your Life Will Lead to Your Victory

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

Psalm 37:23

The purpose of your life is to bear much fruit. In order to bear much fruit, you are going to have to fall into the ground and die. Without falling to the ground and dying you will never bear much fruit. God leads you through many steps of destiny until you get to the place of bearing much fruit.

To bear much fruit, you must take the next step that is ordained by God.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

Every step of your life is ordained so that you end up at the place of "much fruit". That is what glorifies God. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8). That is what God desires from you. He is going to lead you on a series of steps that will eventually bring you to a place where you will be described as "bearing much fruit".

The life of Joseph is a good example of how following a series of steps brings you to a place of much fruit.

If you believe that your life is made up of a number of steps that are guided by the Lord, you will be more relaxed as you go through each step. Perhaps, the next step will change everything. I want you to know about these steps that are ordered by the Lord.

1. **What you are experiencing now is actually one of the steps that are ordered by the Lord.**

   The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

What you are experiencing today is one of the divine steps of your life. Do not be discouraged by today's events. Do not be discouraged by the stage you find yourself in! Every stage of your life is a step into your destiny. Every stage in Joseph's life was actually a step towards him becoming the Prime Minister of Egypt.

2. Every step leads to the next step in God's master plan.

> Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.…. And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.
>
> Isaiah 48:17, 21

This is the next important truth about the steps of destiny in a man's life. Every step leads to the next step. Where you are will lead to the very next step into what God has destined for you. As the children of God went through the wilderness, God was leading them in the way they were supposed to go.

3. If you take out one step the other steps will not happen.

A close look at the life of Joseph will show you that one thing led to another. If Joseph had not been thrown into the well, the people passing by would not have heard him nor bought him nor taken him to Egypt. Every step led to the next step of his life.

Without the step of resentment and hatred by his brothers, the next stage of his life and ministry would not have happened.

It is amazing that Joseph had to meet a woman like Potiphar's wife in order to go to the next step of his ministry. Most people would have considered meeting Potiphar's wife as a curse. However, without Potiphar's wife, Joseph would not have gone to prison for twelve years. It was in prison that he found the next step to his destiny.

Do not be discouraged that you are in prison.

Do not be disheartened because you met a woman like Potiphar's wife.

Do not be discouraged because you met a woman who behaves like Potiphar's wife and tries to take advantage of your youthfulness.

Joseph was about sixteen years old when he encountered Potiphar's wife. He may have considered it the greatest curse of his life to be abused, and

taken advantage of by a mature, grown-up woman. However, these bad things are leading you to your next step. Notice forty divine steps that led to Joseph's fruitfulness.

4. Learn from the Forty Divine Steps of Joseph's Life

1. Joseph becomes a favourite and favoured child.

2. Joseph receives a multi-coloured coat from his father.

3. Joseph experiences resentment from his brothers.

4. Joseph has a series of dreams.

5. Joseph mistakenly shares his dreams.

6. Jacob, his father, is unaware of the resentment and hatred of the brothers.

7. Jacob sends Joseph to his brothers.

8. Joseph is captured and thrown into a well.

9. Reuben tries to save Joseph but is not forthright about it.

10. Joseph is sold as a slave.

11. No one listens to Joseph and no one is kind to him.

12. Slavery becomes a reality for Joseph.

13. Joseph experiences slavery in Potiphar's house.

14. Potiphar's marriage is in trouble.

15. Potiphar's wife falls in love with Joseph.

16. Joseph encounters Potiphar's wife.

17. Potiphar's wife brings up an accusation of rape.

18. The rape accusation is not set aside.

19. Injustice prevails and Joseph is thrown into jail.

20. Joseph meets other prisoners.

21. The prisoners have dreams.

22. Joseph's dream interpretation ministry flourishes in prison.

23. The butler forgets Joseph for another two years until Joseph is 30 years

old.

24. The butler suddenly remembers Joseph.

25. Joseph is summoned to meet Pharaoh.

26. Joseph suggests to Pharaoh to find a wise man to help him.

27. Pharaoh appoints Joseph as the wise prime minister.

28. Joseph rules Egypt and causes the nation to prosper.

29. Joseph gets a beloved.

30. Joseph marries and has two children.

31. Famine strikes Egypt.

32. Famine drives Joseph's brothers to Egypt.

33. Joseph saves his family.

34. Joseph's family migrates to Egypt.

35. Jacob blesses Joseph twice and adopts his two children.

36. Jacob dies and is buried.

37. Joseph's brothers fear reprisals

38. Joseph forgives his brothers again!

39. Joseph dies.

40. Joseph's bones are taken to Israel.

5. Every step on the way to the Promised Land, when taken in isolation, seemed like something bizarre.

> So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?
>
> Exodus 15:22-24

When the Lord led the children of Israel to the waters of Marah, they were shocked at the kind of bitter waters they were made to drink. "What on earth is this?" they asked. "Why would anyone bring us to this

place?" However, Marah was not their final destination. Marah was a step on the way to the Promised Land. Taken out of context, Marah would seem to be a bizarre destination.

Indeed, you must consider each step of destiny as a stage and a phase of your life. Marah is not your final destination. Neither is it an end. Marah is one of the several steps you must take. If you do not consider what is happening in your life today as one of several steps in God's plan, it will seem like something bizarre is happening in your life.

Have faith in God! Believe that you are experiencing a set of divine steps towards a great future that God has planned for you.

God has great plans for you! Do not be discouraged by any bizarre event in your life. God has great things ahead! Today's events are just one step in a series of steps towards the future God has prepared for you.

6. Every step that happens in your life is for your sake.

> For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
>
> 2 Corinthians 4:15

It is important that you believe that all things are for your sake. Every single thing that happens is actually for your sake. Everything that is happening right now is for your sake. God loves you so much that He has arranged circumstances to work out for your sake. Beginning from today, you must accept that what is happening around you is for your sake.

Chapter 6
Your Troubles Will Give You Weight and Glory

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

2 Corinthians 4:17

1. *Trouble makes you weighty* and gives your words weight!

> **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;**
>
> **2 Corinthians 4:17**

The afflictions that we go through are working out a weight of glory. There is a type of glory and beauty that only comes from trouble, affliction and difficulty. Indeed, trouble makes you weighty in the ministry!

I promise you that after you go through trouble successfully, you will be "more" weighty. You will have a weight of divine and heavenly glory on your life that no one will be able to set aside.

Why is it that some people's words carry so much weight? Why is it that other people say the same things but their words are light and airy? It takes experiencing trouble to make you weighty in the ministry.

This is why older, experienced people use proverbs that have amazing depth and meaning. A simple comment by an older, experienced person can send shock waves and fear into those listening.

An old man once said, "You cannot keep poisonous snakes in your backyard and expect them to only bite the neighbours." This is a weighty statement.

Another old man said, "When a king's palace is burnt, a more beautiful one is built for him." This weighty statement only comes from someone who has seen trouble.

Yet another person said, "It is inside the blackest pot that one cooks white rice." This person has seen how a good thing can come out of an apparently dark and difficult situation.

Yet another person said, "A hunter with one arrow does not shoot carelessly." Obviously, he is someone who knows what it is like to be left with no options.

2. *Trouble prepares you* for the next level of fruitfulness.

> And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.
>
> Deuteronomy 8:2-3

God led the children of Israel through the wilderness. He wanted them to live and multiply. But before they could live and multiply, He had to test them, to humble them and to prove them. God took the Israelites through the wilderness to humble them and to prepare them for a great work.

No one would like to sit on a plane that has not been tested. Do the engines work? Will they fall off once the plane is airborne? I heard of a plane that fell straight out of the sky because one of the engines fell off the plane.

I once watched a plane that was being tested. It took off and continued flying straight ahead without gaining altitude. It flew straight into a mountain that was near the airport where these tests were being done.

Indeed, it is important to have planes tested if people are going to trust their lives to them. If God is going to entrust many people into your care, He is going to have to test you first.

Trouble is the only thing He can use to test you to see your resilience, your persistence, your humility and your reaction to difficulties, hardships and problems.

Do not fail your test! Make sure you pass your tests with flying colours! God really wants you to pass these tests! God is hoping that you will come through with flying colours!

3. *Trouble pushes you* towards your destiny of fruitfulness.

> All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither

did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

Deuteronomy 8:1-4

The troubles that the Israelites encountered only served to push them towards fruitfulness. Everything they experienced was a test to prove them and to humble them so that they would be better prepared to bear fruit.

God allowed them to be hungry. God allowed them to experience thirst. It was necessary for them to experience hunger and thirst, not knowing where the next meal was going to come from.

God is taking you through a stage where you will have to trust Him. He wants to see your reaction and response to lack, to poverty and to frustration. How you behave when you lack will determine how God will promote you! Please do not fail this test!

4. ***Trouble will work itself out*** **and become a good thing.**

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:28-29

Trouble will work itself out and become a good thing that has happened in your life. Trouble will eventually give you an advantage, otherwise God would not allow it at all. If it does not work out to your advantage, how will it work out for your good? Expect every trouble in your life to work out for good.

5. ***Trouble, difficulties and crises will lead to your approval in God.***

BUT IN ALL THINGS APPROVING OURSELVES AS THE MINISTERS OF GOD, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

2 Corinthians 6:4-6

Trouble is God's examinations that leads to God's approval of us.

God's approval of you is not seen in the good things that He has given you but is seen through the troubles that you survive. How are you ever going

to get the approval you need from God if there are no troubles in your life? It is through afflictions, necessities, distresses, stripes, imprisonments, tumults and labours that we see God approving of us!

6. ***Trouble and difficulty give you a message.***

> Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.
>
> 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

> Who comforts (consoles and encourages) us in every trouble (calamity and affliction), so that we may also be able to comfort (console and encourage) those who are in any kind of trouble or distress, with the comfort (consolation and encouragement) with which we ourselves are comforted (consoled and encouraged) by God.
>
> 2 Corinthians 1:4 (AMPC)

Troubles give you a ministry and a message. Paul said that he had a message from the Lord through the tribulations and troubles that he experienced. The message that he had was a message to comfort people who were in trouble. The only way he could speak to people who were in trouble was to share what he had learnt when he went through trouble himself.

The whole world lies in wickedness and there is trouble everywhere. You will never have a message for this world unless you experience some of the troubles that are in the world.

I am sure you have noticed that several men of God have a special, powerful message which is related to some type of trouble they have experienced themselves. Kenneth Hagin's most powerful message, the message of faith, is about how God delivered him from a deathbed.

Indeed, your troubles and difficulties are what give you a ministry and a message!

Chapter 7
God Will Use Your Enemies to Promote You

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

Some of the greatest promotions of my life came through enemies. The actions, the writings and the slander of my enemies have been used by God to help me along the way. I could tell you countless stories of how important enemies have been in my life. Enemies are people who hate you, people who fight you and people who seek to destroy you.

The arrival of enemies is often the beginning of a dark season. Enemies make you uncomfortable – so much so that you have a desire to never see them again. But there is an amazing truth about enemies that you must remember – God uses your enemies!

In a sense, God used Judas more than any of the disciples to bring about the greatest victory of Jesus' ministry. The accomplishment of the cross would not have happened without Judas.

How did Thomas or Bartholomew help Jesus accomplish His suffering on the cross?

They were simply deserters!

How did Peter help Jesus accomplish His suffering on the cross? Peter was completely opposed to the idea of the cross.

However, Judas actually organized and mobilized the people who would crucify Jesus on the cross. This is why we can say that God used the traitor Judas even more than He used the faithful disciples.

Do not underestimate the importance of your enemies. They are a specially chosen group of people who God ordains and allows to be a part of your life.

What is the name of your number one enemy? Is he called Jedder? Or is he called Koliba? Is she called Sheba? I don't know their name, but I assure

you that they are a significant part of your life and your calling. There are things you will not accomplish without having enemies!

1. God used Goliath to turn David into a national hero!

> **And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span... And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.**
>
> **1 Samuel 17:4,10-11**

The enemy of David was used to make David into a national hero. God will use your enemies to make you into a national hero.

Goliath was strategically placed in David's path - not to defeat David, but to promote him. Without Goliath, David would never have taken the throne. Don't complain too much about your enemies! *What may look like a setback may really be a set-up to get you to your throne.*

God could have used King Saul, who had the authority, to promote David. All God had to do was move on Saul's heart and tell him, "Promote that young man." But God chose instead to bless David through his enemies. That is why we do not need everybody to be our friends. God does not only use your friends or associates to help you. He will also use your enemies, your critics, and the people who are trying to push you down. He will use them to push you up.

After David defeated Goliath, we do not read anything more about Goliath. He was created for David's purpose. Part of Goliath's destiny was to establish David as a great person! Perhaps, you will advance most in ministry through the person who seems to be opposing you in your life and ministry.

2. God used Daniel's haters to make him famous.

> It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY PRINCES, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. THEN THIS DANIEL WAS PREFERRED ABOVE THE PRESIDENTS AND PRINCES, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. THEN THE PRESIDENTS AND PRINCES SOUGHT TO FIND OCCASION AGAINST DANIEL concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful,

> neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. THEN THESE PRESIDENTS AND PRINCES ASSEMBLED TOGETHER to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever…. And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.
>
> Daniel 6:1-6, 24

God will use your haters to make you famous. God used the presidents and princes who hated Daniel to make him famous! These enemies of Daniel were used to make him famous for being thrown in a lions' den. To this day, Daniel is famous for having survived the lions' den! Little children around the world know the story of "Daniel in the lions' den"!

3. God used Judas to help Jesus accomplish much in ministry!

> And Simon he surnamed Peter; And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.
>
> Mark 3:16-19

God uses enemies even more than friends and loyal people. Judas was more significant in the ministry of Jesus than any of the other chosen disciples.

In one sense, God used Judas more than He used the other disciples. Judas was ordained to betray Jesus—that was his purpose. It wasn't just his idea; it was part of the plan of God.

If Judas had not betrayed Jesus, there would not have been a crucifixion, and without the crucifixion there would not have been a resurrection, and without a resurrection we would not have had any salvation.

We celebrate Mary, the mother of Jesus for giving birth to Jesus in the manger! We celebrate John the Baptist for baptizing Jesus in the River Jordan. We celebrate Peter, James, and John for walking with Jesus and being His friends. But the man who betrayed Jesus, the one who sold Him out for thirty pieces of silver, was just as critical to His destiny, if not more so than the others.

4. God used the Egyptians! God will use your enemies to multiply you.

> Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. BUT THE MORE THEY AFFLICTED THEM, THE MORE THEY MULTIPLIED AND GREW. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.
>
> Exodus 1:8-12

The Egyptians, enemies of Israel, were used to multiply them. The more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied. Pressure is good for you! Many people perform better under pressure. You may not like it, but you will grow better under pressure.

Expect your character to be developed under pressure.

Expect to discover talents you did not know you had because of the trouble you have been through.

When Pharaoh squeezed the Israelites with slave labour, Moses was unveiled. The pressure from the enemies of the Israelites caused a saviour and a prophet called Moses to be revealed.

5. God uses enemies as an audience to see your greatness and victories.

> **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**
>
> **Psalm 23:5**

Your enemies will be there to see how God remembered you and helped you. Many people will play a role in helping you fulfil destiny. Enemies will also play their role in helping you to your final destiny. They will be there to clap and see how you enjoy the pork, the beef and the shrimps at the table God prepares for you. Get used to having enemies around and get used to enduring their presence. God always uses enemies to do something great in your life.

6. God uses the afflictions of enemies to work out good things in you. It is good that there were Egyptians! It is good there was Goliath! It is good there was Judas!

IT IS GOOD FOR ME THAT I HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED; that I might learn thy statutes.

Psalm 119:71

Many enemies are actually good news for you. There is some form of spiritual energy that is derived from the troubles you have. Many enemies bring out good things in your life. Sometimes when God wants to promote you, He sends you an enemy.

God may cause you to be put in a situation where you are treated wrongly. Injustice is part of the experiences in this life. Encountering people who simply cheat you, abuse you and mishandle you, will bring out the best in you.

Don't get discouraged by all these terrible experiences. The more you seem defeated, the more you will experience the miracle hand of God. When you are weak, you are strong!

That is why Paul gloried in his weaknesses. The more opposition you have, the more grace you will receive from heaven.

7. Consider it all joy when you fall into the hands of your enemies.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:2-4

You may have fallen into the hands of enemies. Do not lose hope! Count it all joy! The Egyptians you see today, you will see them no more!

Be happy. Consider it a good thing. The tests, trials and temptations are working out something wonderful in your life. Why would you be told to count it all joy if there was not something really joyful coming up?

Chapter 8
You Will Make it Through the Valley

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. THOU PREPAREST A TABLE before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23:1-6

What is a valley? A valley is a low place! A valley is a dip! A valley is far from the heights and high points! A valley represents the difficulties of life and ministry. But God has promised great things after the valley; A table prepared for you comes just after the valley!

According to Psalm 23 verse 4, there will be a valley in your life. But in Psalm 23 verse 5, we see a table prepared for you in the presence of the enemies. This is an amazing blessing! God will take you through the valley and bring you straight to a table of abundant provisions and blessings.

A valley is an elongated depression in your life! Expect prolonged times of lowliness and depression. That is what a valley is.

A valley is a depression, a crisis, a difficulty, a quarrel, a divorce, a family concern, a pregnancy that is not happening, a lost child, a lost loved one, a failure, a loss, a weakness, a marital crisis, a financial setback, some bad news, a terror, a moral failure, an evil wind, a failed relationship, an unfortunate happening, a low point or a disaster.

Keep pressing through every valley! You must press through every elongated and depressed place in your life! You must keep walking even when you enter the valley, because, just after the valley is a prepared table full of food.

Keep pressing on in faith! God has plans to strengthen you in the valley

and bring you to a prepared table.

> **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.**
>
> **John 12:24**

Jesus really wants you to bear fruit. He wants you to bear much fruit. You were created to be fruitful. Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and dies it will simply not bear fruit.

To bear fruit you will have to go low and fall into the ground! The ground is a low place to fall into. You must walk through the valleys of life and come to the table prepared by the Lord.

1. **After the valley is a prepared table!** A prepared table speaks of overflowing abundance, goodness and mercy and establishment in the house of the Lord. These prepared tables are found just after the valleys of your life. After the lows of your life will come establishment, blessings and peace.

   > Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
   >
   > Psalm 23:5-6

2. **God is very powerful and very present in your valleys! For He is a God of the valleys! God knows all about valleys and God will bring you through all the valleys of your life and ministry.**

   > And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the Lord, Because the Syrians have said, THE LORD IS GOD OF THE HILLS, BUT HE IS NOT GOD OF THE VALLEYS, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the Lord.
   >
   > 1 Kings 20:28

God is not just the God of the mountains and high spots of your life. He is not just the God of the glorious finish; He is the God of the valleys too! God is moving right now in your life.

He has you in the palms of His hands. Right now, He's working out His plan for your life.

Do not get discouraged by the process. You may be in the fire, but God is working on pulling you through. You are going to pass through it.

Every power has an expiry date!

Your crisis is only temporary!

You will pull through!

You will come out well!

You will do well!

It's just a matter of time!

3. King David came through many valleys!

> **And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.**
>
> **1 Samuel 16:1**

God called David even though He knew there would be valleys! God knew about the valleys when He anointed David to be king. He had plans to take him through the valleys.

God was with David all through the valleys of his life!

David could have said, "O God, You promised me that I would be the king, but You didn't tell me that I would have to face a giant called Goliath. You did not give me those details.

Oh God, You didn't tell me that even though I was faithfully serving King Saul, he would try to kill me.

Oh God, You didn't tell me that I would be a fugitive for so long.

Oh God, You didn't tell me that my own son would organise a rebellion and a coup d'état against me!"

4. Joseph came through many valleys!

> And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.
>
> Genesis 37:6-8

God knew about the valleys when He prophesied that Joseph would be a great leader. God had plans to take Joseph through slavery, through imprisonment, through being abandoned and through being forgotten by men. God knew the end would be glorious but He also knew there would be valleys and low points in the journey.

There were many low points and valleys in Joseph's journey. I am sure Joseph was shocked by these low points of his journey:

There was the hatred of his brothers

There was the well he was thrown into

There was the slavery

There was imprisonment

There was Potiphar's wife

There was betrayal.

Please don't be discouraged in the valley. Many people have been in valleys just like yours. The valley is not the end of your journey. You are just passing through the valley!

5. Israel came through many low points in the wilderness!

> And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: BUT GOD LED THE PEOPLE ABOUT, THROUGH THE WAY OF THE WILDERNESS OF THE RED SEA: AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WENT UP HARNESSED OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT. And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you. And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.
>
> Exodus 13:17-22

Israel was led directly into the valley of death as they embarked on a journey through the wilderness. God knew about the valley when He

prophesied to them a promised land, flowing with milk and honey. Get ready for all the prophecies to be fulfilled in your life. Brace yourself to go through every valley that you encounter.

All through the valleys, God provided for the children of Israel. God never said, "You are on your own now that you are in the valley of your life." When they needed meat, He gave them quails. When they needed bread, He gave them manna. When they needed water, God provided supernatural sources of water from rocks. When they needed an army to defend them, God provided deliverance from enemy nations. When they were chased, God opened the Red Sea.

God has plans to see you through the valleys! When there was bitterness in the water, God turned it around and gave them fresh water. God is a God who takes you through the valleys of life successfully.

> So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet
>
> Exodus 15:22-25

6. Mary came through valleys!

> And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
>
> Luke 1:30-35

Mary faced a valley as she heard the call of God's promise of greatness! God gave Mary an amazing promise. But the valleys were waiting for her.

God showed Mary the end of the vision. She was going to be the mother of Christ: "You will have a baby without knowing a man, and He will be the

Messiah, the Saviour of the world." She would have honour and be admired for generations to come. I am sure Mary was excited. She couldn't believe it.

But I can hear Mary years later, saying, "*O God, you did not tell me about the valleys of this great calling.*

You did not tell me how people would make fun of me for claiming that I was pregnant without having sex.

You did not tell me how ridiculous it would sound to the rest of the world when I announced my faith in you."

I am sure she said to God, "*You did not tell me what it would be like to watch my own son being crucified on the cross.*"

Perhaps, she wished that she had never given birth to such a son.

But God is a God of the valleys too! You will find Jesus standing by you in every low moment of your life.

7. Jesus came through valleys!

> **Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, DESTROY THIS TEMPLE, AND IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT UP.**
>
> **John 2:18-19**

Jesus was fearless as He approached the valley of death! He knew that after the valley of death, there would be a table prepared for Him!

Jesus knew God was in charge and that's why He was fearless before Pilate. Jesus told Pilate that there was nothing Pilate could do to change His destiny. After the valley is a prepared table.

When you trust in God, you will not be afraid of what man can do unto you. The lowest point in the valley is never too low for Jesus to reach out to you.

Do not be discouraged!

Do not be disillusioned!

Do not be disheartened!

Better days are coming!

In three days, God will raise you up!

Always remember that after the valley comes a well-prepared table before your enemies.

Chapter 9
When I Sit in Darkness the Lord Shall Be a Light Unto Me

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

Micah 7:8

1. When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

Micah 7:8

When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. God knows everyone who is sitting in darkness today. God can see you sitting alone in the darkness. God sees you sitting alone and crying all day long.

I have news for you! The darkness in your life is not the end of everything but rather a mysterious sign of a new beginning.

The death of your spouse may be the start of a season of darkness in your life.

Your divorce may be the start of a season of darkness in your life.

A sickness may be the start of a season of darkness in your life.

Loneliness, disappointment, failure and loss may be a season of darkness that has descended upon you.

Amazingly, you are going to come out of the darkness much better, much stronger and bearing much fruit. The darkness makes you feel as though you are dying but out of that dark season, the power of God is going to bring new life, new opportunities, new growth and a new day. When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me!

2. Darkness has power.

And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him. Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: BUT THIS IS YOUR HOUR, AND THE POWER OF DARKNESS.

Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

Luke 22:50-54

Darkness has power! Jesus spoke of the power of darkness. When darkness descends, it brings about certain things. Darkness engineers certain things in your soul, your spirit, your mind and your body. Darkness is a season that comes upon a person.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Colossians 1:13

God will deliver you from the power of darkness.

Whatever represents the power of darkness in your life is broken forever!

The Bible speaks of being transferred from the power of darkness. You are delivered from the rulers of darkness!

When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me! Jesus came to save us when we were sitting in darkness.

3. The darkness comes to everyone.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Isaiah 60:2

If you are part of humanity, you will experience darkness one day.

Elijah's season of darkness came when he was depressed and when he ran away from Jezebel.

David's season of darkness came when he had an affair with Bathsheba and murdered her husband. A dark shadow descended over David's life because of his sin.

Joseph experienced a season of darkness when his brothers rejected him and sold him into slavery and imprisonment.

Esther began a season of darkness when she became an orphan.

But always remember; "When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me!"

3. In the darkness, there will be a sign of a new beginning.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and THE DAY STAR arise in your hearts:

2 Peter 1:19

Expect to see the day star.

In the darkness, you must watch out for the sign of the coming light. A light is beginning to shine towards you. That is the day star or the morning star.

The morning star is the star that appears alone in the sky, heralding the dawn. It is a clear sign of the coming of the morning.

Keep your eyes open. God is showing you a sign that things are about to change forever.

The black darkness which dominated your life will be gone soon, and another day will begin.

Expect it! That's how God works!

He permits darkness, but He gives hope and a sign of the coming light and brightness!

Look for it because it is on the way!

Perhaps the sign is a new friend you have made.

Perhaps the sign of the day is a new level of spirituality you have developed out of your crises.

Perhaps the sign of a new day is the presence of some unexpected financial relief.

Expect a sign. God is in the business of giving daystars to herald a bright new season.

4. Darkness will lead to fruitfulness in your life.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

Unless a seed falls into the ground, it will abide alone and it will not bear fruit. Before you bear fruit, you will fall into the ground and go through a season of darkness.

Much fruit is going to come through your season of darkness. You will emerge fruitful and full of abundance!

No one can prevent the darkness from coming. A dark season comes to everyone.

A dark season is a time of difficulty. At night, when it is dark, no one can see properly, and no one understands what is happening.

In the darkness, evil seems to flourish! The dark season of your life is when evil seems to abound and take over.

Amazingly, it is in this dark season that the seed will die and begin to bear much fruit. When a seed falls into the ground, it experiences the darkness of the earth and the pressure and heat of the earth. It is this very season of darkness that begins the process of fruitfulness in your life. When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me!

5. Enlargement takes place in the darkness.

> **Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: THOU HAST ENLARGED ME WHEN I WAS IN DISTRESS; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.**
>
> **Psalm 4:1**

Enlargement happens in the dark season of life. As the Psalmist said, you enlarged me when I was in distress. Enlargement did not come when everything was okay. The Psalmist didn't get enlarged in the good times; he was enlarged when things weren't going his way. Enlargement came in the time of distress. This is why God sometimes leads us straight into the darkness so that He can expand us and enlarge us to become what He wants us to be.

> **He hath led me, and brought me into darkness, but not into light.**
>
> **Lamentations 3:2**

When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me!

6. Hardening and strengthening with an iron heart happens in the dark seasons.

> **They have afflicted with fetters his feet, IRON HATH ENTERED HIS SOUL,**
>
> **Psalm 105: 18 (YLT)**

What an amazing scripture! Iron entering the soul of a man!

Iron stiffened and hardened the soul of Joseph! He was turned from a softie and a "daddy's pet" into a hardened leader! The dark seasons of Joseph's life as family reject, as a slave and as a prisoner hardened his soul.

Iron entered into the soul of Joseph and made him a hardened leader, capable of leading a great nation like Egypt.

It was during his dark years of imprisonment, slavery and injustice that iron entered his soul.

7. After the darkness you will see a table prepared for you.

> **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**
>
> **Psalm 23:4-6**

A prepared table always comes after the darkness. If you can trust God for good experiences in the green pastures, then you are going to have to trust Him to bring you through the dark valley of the shadow of death. After the valley of the shadow of death, you can expect to find a table made ready. You must trust God with the dark seasons. Expect Him to bring you through beautifully until you see the table He has prepared for you.

8. The darkness will break you, and God will notice it.

> **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.**
>
> **Psalm 51:17**

God is touched when He sees the brokenness that has happened to you because of the season of darkness.

God will not refuse the sacrifice of a broken spirit. The sacrifice that God likes is a broken spirit.

You may be in a dark season after a breakup of your relationship. Perhaps you are lonely, unhappy and disillusioned. Perhaps you are broken and disappointed. But I tell you, if you keep serving the Lord and moving forward with a cheerful attitude, the darkness will be dispelled, and a new season of fruitfulness will emerge.

Keep moving forward!

Keep serving the Lord!

When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me!

Chapter 10
You Are Coming Out of the Horrible Pit

I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. HE BROUGHT ME UP ALSO OUT OF AN HORRIBLE PIT, OUT OF THE MIRY CLAY, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Psalm 40:1-4

When God sees you in a pit, He is alarmed and agitated. God says, "That's My son, that's My daughter. That is the apple of my eye. That is my servant whom I uphold.

My son is in a pit! My daughter is in a pit! My servant is in a pit! The one I anointed is in a pit! He is lying on his face. My dear child is down and out! He is lying on his face. I have to rush there to help him out of that horrible pit. I want to help My son. I want to help My daughter!" This is all that God is thinking about as He sees you in a horrible pit.

1. You may have to go into a horrible pit if you want to bear fruit.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

Jesus has made it clear that you have to go into a horrible pit and die so that you can come forth and bear much fruit. To bear your fruit, you need to come out of the horrible pit in which you have been planted as a seed.

2. God knows how to bring you out of that horrible pit.

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

Psalm 40:2

There are horrible pits in this life.

If you are part of humanity, sooner or later, you will be dropped into a pit somewhere.

You may have been dropped into a horrible pit of sickness!

You may have been dropped by a friend into a horrible pit of loneliness.

Perhaps, you have been dropped into a horrible pit of betrayal!

Perhaps you have been dropped into a horrible pit of broken relationships.

It is just a matter of time before you will be dropped into a horrible pit of darkness and sadness.

Maybe a man has taken advantage of you and mistreated you - that's when you were dropped into a horrible pit.

Maybe the girl you loved has been unfaithful to you and loved another man - you just fell into a horrible pit.

Maybe you are covered with shame and guilt because of your sin - you have just been dropped into a horrible pit!

Maybe someone just dropped you by the wayside.

You cannot live very long without falling into a pit somewhere.

Perhaps, you have been dropped into a horrible pit of incurable illness. Perhaps you have been dropped into a pit of loneliness by an unfaithful spouse.

Perhaps, you were dropped into a pit by a friend who turned against you.

God will bring you out of the horrible pit!

3. Get ready for God to pull you out of the pit! Get ready to be established - God will bring you out of the pit and establish you.

> **I WAITED PATIENTLY FOR THE LORD; AND HE INCLINED UNTO ME, AND HEARD MY CRY. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.**
>
> **Psalm 40:1-4**

Do not just sit in the darkness!

It is time to wait upon the Lord and to cry out to Him.

God is about to lift you up in response to your prayers.

He will set you up on a high place because you asked Him to.

From the horrible pit, you will go up into a new level with new opportunities, new friendships, new relationships, new joy and a new life. You will never be the same as God brings you out of the horrible pit.

4. Get ready for double: God actually plans to give you double of everything you had before you went into the horrible pit.

For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

Isaiah 61:7

Instead of shame and dishonor, you will enjoy a double share of honor. You will possess a double portion of prosperity in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.

Isaiah 61:7 (NLT)

God is going to lift you out of the horrible pit. God is going to compensate you for all the time you have spent in the horrible pit.

He will do something for you that you cannot do for yourself, even if it seems you have so much shame in your life.

Everyone passes by and sees you in that horrible pit, and they turn up their noses at you.

But I prophesy that you are coming out of that horrible pit! Beginning from today, I declare that you are out and you are not coming out empty-handed.

You will be promoted, respected and vindicated. Very soon, you will be enjoying favours and blessings you do not deserve.

God will compensate you for all the time that you spent in that horrible pit.

For your shame you will have double!

5. God will right the wrongs. God has not forgotten you. Get ready for Him to right all the injustices done against you in the horrible pit.

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God

looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

Exodus 2:24-25

Compensation is coming! Promotion is coming! Vindication is coming! Healing is coming! A Blessing is coming!

Life is not always fair, but God is fair. God will add up all the losses, the disappointments, the heartaches, the tears, and He will pay you back.

God has not forgotten about you. He has seen every lonely night, every wrong that's been done, and every person who ever harmed you.

God is a God of vengeance! God is a God of justice.

When the Israelites were mistreated in slavery and taken advantage of by the Egyptians, He spoke to them and said, "I'm coming down to make your wrongs right."

God is coming to the horrible pit.

Keep watching!

He's coming to pick you out Himself!

His hands will reach out and pull you up and out of that horrible pit.

"I'm coming down to pick you back up again."

"I'm coming down to bring justice, to deal with the people who have done you wrong."

God will deal with everyone who has done something wrong to you!

Do not worry about those who have abused you.

God will deal with them Himself.

You can never punish anyone as much as God can.

God is a God of justice and fairness.

He will ensure that everybody gets their due!

6. God knows your sorrows. God knows the things that have made you sad. Get ready, God is doing everything to correct the wrongs done to you when they put you into the horrible pit.

And the Lord said, I HAVE SURELY SEEN THE AFFLICTION OF MY PEOPLE WHICH ARE IN EGYPT, and have heard their

cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

Exodus 3:7

And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

Exodus 3:20-22

When God sees how you have been mistreated, He is moved with compassion.

God does not just say, "It's too bad that you have had a negative experience."

God moves into action. His hands can reach out to where you are.

God is saying, "I have to get down there to do something about this." God moves into action with His angels.

God will pay back what you have lost with interest and with value.

When He sees you being mistreated, when He sees that injustice, He doesn't just sit back and say, "Too bad."

He says, "That's My son, that's My daughter, My most prized possession."

"My daughter is in a pit, and now I have to get down there to do something about it."

"My son is lying on his face! My dear son is down and out. I have to rush there to help him."

When God goes to work, even the demons of hell cannot stop Him.

Satan panics when God starts moving. I see and feel God moving to rescue you!

He will make your wrongs right!

He will pay you back for the trouble!

Your shame will be forgotten by most people!

Those who remember your shame will be gone forever.

God will get you to where you are supposed to be.

Chapter 11
God Has Not Forgotten You

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? YEA, THEY MAY FORGET, YET WILL I NOT FORGET THEE.

Isaiah 49:15

1. God has not forgotten about you at all. Every time He opens the palms of His hands, He sees your name.

> But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? YEA, THEY MAY FORGET, YET WILL I NOT FORGET THEE. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.
>
> Isaiah 49:14-16

I am not surprised that you feel lonely and forgotten. Many people feel lonely and forgotten. God's word says He will not forget you. Every time God opens His palms, He sees your name. Every time He sees your name, He is reminded of you. Under your name, there are notes about you. God reads the notes to remind Himself of everything about you! Wow!

God has not forgotten about you at all. God has not forgotten the visions and dreams He gave to you. Your life is very important to Him. God is always thinking about you. How can God forget you when your name is written in His palm?

Get ready to come out of the horrible pit. God is activating His angels to move on your case. Your case will not remain unsolved for long. Solutions are coming faster than you think. Expect to come out of that horrible pit because God has remembered you!

2. God will replace the irreplaceable. God knows your irreplaceable loss, and He will work a miracle in your life to replace them.

The children born during your time of sorrow will speak to you. They will say, "This city is too small for us. Give us more space to live in. "

> Then you will say to yourself, "Whose children are these? I lost my children. And I couldn't have any more. My children were taken far away from me. And no one wanted them. Who brought these

children up? I was left all alone. So where have these children come from? “

Isaiah 49:20-21 (NIrV)

God will replace the irreplaceable.

Someone may have changed your life forever through his wickedness.

Maybe you have lost a child.

Maybe you lost a husband.

Maybe you lost your decency.

Maybe your wife passed away.

Perhaps you lost a dear friend.

God has not forgotten you!

God will replace the irreplaceable!

Someone may have taken away your virginity and your innocence.

Perhaps, a man abused you.

Perhaps you lost your purity.

Perhaps you lost your decency.

Perhaps you have lost your sense of self-worth.

Perhaps, someone played with your body and changed you sexually.

Somebody may have taken away your very life.

Perhaps, someone has taken away your valued church members.

I tell you, God is going to pay them back.

God is also going to pay you back.

He knows exactly how much you are owed. That is the way God is!

He will never allow the injustice to prevail. God will always make the enemy pay. God will bring you out better.

God has not forgotten you!

God will replace the irreplaceable!

3. God is going to restore all the injustices done against you in your

childhood.

> And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake? And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he. And the king said, IS THERE NOT YET ANY OF THE HOUSE OF SAUL, THAT I MAY SHEW THE KINDNESS OF GOD UNTO HIM? AND ZIBA SAID UNTO THE KING, JONATHAN HATH YET A SON, WHICH IS LAME ON HIS FEET. And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar….
>
> And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am? Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house. Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.
>
> 2 Samuel 9:1-4, 7-10

Mephibosheth was dropped as a baby and became a cripple. He suffered a calamity and injustice as a child! But God remembered him. Mephibosheth was remembered by King David. That is how you will be remembered! The king is about to summon you to the palace.

God is going to pay you back for the wrong done to you as a child. This is the goodness of God, paying you back and bringing in justice. You may not know how it can happen, but God is speaking to certain people about you. He's softening the right hearts.

He's going to pay you back for that abuse and all the wrongs of your childhood.

Perhaps you were mocked as a child. Perhaps they made fun of you as a child. Perhaps they insulted you and laughed at you. I tell you; God will pay you back for all the shame you suffered.

God is going to pay you back for those people who did you wrong!

God is going to pay you back for that loved one you lost!

God is going to pay you back for that baby you couldn't have.

You may have been dropped, but you need to get ready, for there's a seat at the King's table waiting just for you.

It is a seat of honour!

It is a seat of restoration!

It is a seat of remembrance!

It is a seat of promotion!

You are just about to be lifted to a better place! A place of blessing, a place of victory! A place of God's love!

4. God is your glory and the lifter of your head.

> Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah. But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; MY GLORY, AND THE LIFTER UP OF MINE HEAD.
>
> Psalm 3:1-3

God will not allow you to stay in that horrible hole. God is the only one who can lift up your head.

God will not allow your head to stay down.

Beginning from today, your head will be lifted up! The beauty of your life will come from God Himself.

God is your glory!

God is your beauty!

Nothing is beautiful about your life except God Himself.

He surely will lift you up! Expect the lifting of your life to begin from today.

The prophecy you believe is the prophecy you will receive!

Chapter 12
Maintain the Victory Attitude

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

Are you hurt because you have been thrown into the ground to die and to bear fruit?

It is important that you maintain a good attitude throughout all your tests and trials. Without a good attitude, you will not bear fruit. A victory attitude is a good attitude.

1. Give no place to the devil in your attitude.

Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:27

Don't give the devil a way to defeat you.

Ephesians 4:27 (ERV)

Give no place to worry!

Give no place to regret!

Give no place to bitterness!

Give no place to hatred!

Give no place to anxiety!

Give no place to evil thoughts of revenge!

Give no place to anger!

Give no place to discontentment!

Give no place to your fears!

2. Maintain the victory attitude of long life.

A SOUND HEART IS THE LIFE OF THE FLESH: but envy

the rottenness of the bones.

Proverbs 14:30

A RELAXED ATTITUDE LENGTHENS A MAN'S LIFE; jealousy rots it away.

Proverbs 14:30 (TLB)

A HEART AT PEACE GIVES LIFE TO THE BODY, but envy rots the bones.

Proverbs 14:30 (NIV)

Get rid of all evil attitudes because they affect how long you live. A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life. A heart at peace gives life to the body. A sound heart is the life of the flesh! Indeed, having a good victory attitude will prolong your life!

As you go through life, you will have troubles, with people hurting you many times. You are also going to make many mistakes. Life will happen to you!

Offences will come! But you must not hold on to the offences. You must relax. You must be happy. You must make yourself merry. Keep your spirit free of the burden of offences. Gradually, God will fill your life with good things, and that will keep you young and strong.

God does not want you to become old, grouchy and grumpy. When that happens, your life will fall apart and be shortened. God wants you to stay young, strong, good-looking, full of faith, joy, and energy. Do not allow negative attitudes to take root in your life.

3. Maintain the victory attitude of youthfulness.

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:5

He gives us plenty of good things. He makes us young again, like an eagle that grows new feathers.

Psalm 103:5 (ERV)

Who satisfies your desires with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:5 (NIV)

He satisfies me with the good things I desire. Then I feel young and strong again, just like an eagle

Psalm 103:5 (NIrV)

It is important that you enjoy the good things that God brings to you. He satisfies your desires with good things. Satisfying your desires helps you to remain young. "Who satisfies your desires with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:5 (NIV)). Every man has desires for food, rest, sex, play, happiness and friendship.

According to the Bible, when the desires for good things are satisfied, it increases a person's youthfulness. It is important to have a youthful, cheerful and hopeful attitude because young people have cheerful and hopeful attitudes. To renew your youth is therefore to renew yourself to a higher level of cheerfulness and hopefulness. To renew your youth is to allow yourself to be satisfied with food, relaxation, rest, sex, play, happiness and socialisation.

God is going to satisfy your mouth with good things like food, rest, sex, play and happiness. Accept these blessings in your life to help you relax so that you can grow even more youthful.

4. Maintain the victory attitude of forgiveness.

> **Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;**
>
> **Hebrews 12:15**

To forgive people is to develop a strong victory attitude! Forgive others and maintain a good heart without the impurities of poisonous bitterness that will shorten your life. All forms of unforgiveness and bitterness will destroy and defile you.

5. Maintain the victory attitude of focusing on forgetting the past.

> **No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, BUT I AM BRINGING ALL MY ENERGIES TO BEAR ON THIS ONE THING: FORGETTING THE PAST AND LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.**
>
> **I hope all of you who are mature Christians will see eye-to-eye with me on these things, and if you disagree on some point, I believe that God will make it plain to you.**
>
> **Philippians 3:13-15 (TLB)**

It takes a lot of energy to forget the past so that you can build the future. Forgive by focusing your efforts on the future. Do new things that help you forget the past. Do not let your past mistakes and failures dominate your present life. This was Paul's strategy that helped him move forward.

Apply strength to remove, delete and scrape out every memory and every memento of past unfortunate occasions of your life that bring sadness.

6. Maintain the victory attitude by dropping painful issues.

> And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, IS NOT THIS BATHSHEBA, THE DAUGHTER OF ELIAM, THE WIFE OF URIAH THE HITTITE?
>
> 2 Samuel 11:3

> These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time…Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, ELIAM THE SON OF AHITHOPHEL THE GILONITE,
>
> 2 Samuel 23:8, 34

> And Absalom sent for AHITHOPHEL THE GILONITE, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.
>
> 2 Samuel 15:12

From the scriptures above, we see that Bathsheba was Ahithophel's granddaughter. When David abused Bathsheba, Ahithophel could not forgive him. Instead of Ahithophel forgiving David, he bore a grudge against David.

Ahithophel, the grandfather of Bathsheba, did not drop the painful issue, and it ended up consuming him. Why did Ahithophel betray King David? There is a reason why Ahithophel turned against David when he had a chance to. He had been David's close adviser and friend for so many years. Why else would a trusted friend of King David suddenly turn on him and follow the madness of Absalom?

Ahithophel smiled and laughed on the outside whilst he gave David advice, but inside, something wasn't right. He ended up hanging himself.

What David did was wrong. In the natural, Ahithophel had a reason to be

upset, angry, and bitter. But because he did not maintain a victory attitude of forgiveness, he ended up being destroyed by David's sin.

Ahithophel did not drop the painful issue. Not dropping the painful issue cost Ahithophel his life.

7. Maintain the victory attitude of not poking and prying into things that you should not.

> **LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.**
>
> **Psalm 131:1**

> To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.
>
> Isaiah 61:3

Develop a victory attitude by leaving things as they are and not poking deeper into issues and going over and over the same things.

Exchange the bitterness in your heart for joy and peace.

Give God your ashes and take His beauty.

Give Him your mourning and take His oil of joy.

Give Him your heaviness and take His praises.

I found out in medical school that when people have gunshot wounds, the bullet and bullet fragments are often left in the person. This is because the bullet is on fire and is sterile as it penetrates the human body. When the bullet finally stops, it is not wise to extract it from deep inside the body, unless it is destroying some vital structure in the body. Poking around to find the bullet is sometimes more dangerous than leaving the bullet in the body. The key thing in gunshot wounds is to stop the bleeding and detect any significant damage, rather than to find and remove the bullet.

I read this interesting story that illustrates the importance of not poking things too much.

What Killed President James Garfield?

In 1881, President James Garfield of the USA was shot six months into his presidency. The doctors were able to save his life, but they could not find

the bullet that was lodged behind his pancreas.

He was recovering well, but back in those days, they thought if they didn't remove the bullet, it would cause problems.

Unfortunately, they performed more and more surgeries, poked and probed all around, but still could not find the bullet. The famous inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, even created an electrical device to try to locate the bullet but that did not work either.

Sadly, almost three months after being shot, President Garfield died; but he did not die from his original bullet wound. He died from the various infections and complications that came upon him because of the continuous surgeries to probe, to poke and locate the bullet.

This story illustrates the importance of not poking, probing, searching, or digging into things, because the constant probing and searching will not heal the matter – it will only make it worse.

Chapter 13
God Will Use Your Night Season

The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT? WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.

Isaiah 21:11-12

The night season is a season of darkness. The darkness represents difficulty, trials, temptations and testing.

The night season is the season when the sun does not shine.

The night season is a season when there is not much light.

The night season is a season when you cannot find your way easily.

The night season is the season when there is much danger.

The night season is the season when there is evil everywhere.

The night season is a season of uncertainty. You are never sure of yourself in the night season.

The night season is a season you must go through if you are to bear fruit.

The night season is the season when you must pray hardest.

The night season is when the watchman must be alert and awake. The night season can be so long that you never know when it is going to end.

1. To bear much fruit, the seed must fall into the ground and die.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

To bear much fruit, the seed must be pushed deep into the darkness and further into the night. The seed must enter the night season in order to bear fruit. Night seasons are very important for the fulfilment of the will of God. You will definitely experience night seasons on your

journey to bear much fruit.

2. God uses the night season to transform a caterpillar into a butterfly.

> **Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?**
>
> **Isaiah 60:8**

The night season of a caterpillar is a great revelation for you. A worm is transformed into a flying creature. Everyone wonders and asks, "Who are these that fly? How did they learn how to fly?" They learnt how to fly in the night season.

The night season is the season when the greatest transformation takes place.

When the caterpillar spins a cocoon around itself and hangs itself upside down from a branch, it has entered a great stage of transformation. When the caterpillar enters its cocoon, it has entered the season that will make all the difference. It is dark! The caterpillar cannot even move! It cannot even eat! But a great transformation is taking place in the dark. Soon, the wings of the caterpillar develop, and it pushes itself out of the dark cocoon. The caterpillar now has the strength and the capacity to fly around as a beautiful butterfly. All the beautiful butterflies you see floating in the air have come out of a night season.

Nobody likes the night seasons.

Nobody likes being restricted and uncomfortable.

Nobody likes the night season when nothing is happening.

Nobody likes the night season when you cannot even move.

Nobody likes the misery and the gloominess of the dark season.

But it is in the night season that the transformation in your heart takes place. You are being transformed from the dark places of your life.

Your wings are developing! You are going to a higher level! You are ending a life of crawling, creeping and sneaking around!

God has made you for higher things! Beginning from now, you are about to go places that you never dreamed were possible.

As you stay in the cocoon, do not complain.

Maintain a good victory attitude!

Have a cheerful, hopeful attitude!

Have a youthful attitude!

Believe that everything is possible!

Believe that the night season is going to lead you to a new level in your life!

You will be flying instead of crawling! Soon, people will be asking, "Who is this person who is flying so high?"

3. Ruth had a night season when her husband died young. God used it to bring her to her new husband and to bring forth King David.

Ruth had a night season when she became a young widow. However, God used that night season to bring forth the great king, David.

The story of Ruth did not end in the night. Every night season is a temporary season.

The problem you are going through is temporary. The crisis you are going through is temporary.

Your broken relationship is temporary. Your loneliness is temporary.

This uncertain season is temporary! Your period of darkness is temporary!

When things are not working out, do not be discouraged. Do not be upset because it seems you have been going in the wrong direction for so long. It is all part of a temporary night season.

That is not how your story is going to end. No story ends in the night. That is why God allows every night to be followed by the day.

God is at work! Have faith in God! There is no rush!

God wants you to rest in between victories. Perhaps this night season is a rest period for you. You will be transformed more in this night season than in any other season in your life. Amen!

When I was in university, our school was shut down for an entire year. As students, we felt that our lives were being delayed. Medical school stretched on for seven years, instead of five or six. We just wanted things to hurry up so we could get out of school. But that one year of night season, when nothing seemed to be happening, turned out to be the best year of my school life.

That night season was when I was trained in the ministry on how to start a church. That is when I received training for church work. That is when I met the pastor who ordained me into the ministry. That is when I sowed many seeds for my life and ministry. That is when I

formed a choir, played instruments, joined a band and learned how to work in a church like a normal Christian.

It was in that year that I went around distributing books by Kenneth Hagin to anyone that I could find. I had certain experiences in that year which have stayed with me for the rest of my ministry.

O, what a precious year of training that was for me! My life, my ministry and my church would have been different if I had not had that one year of "doing nothing". My friend, be not afraid of the night season when nothing seems to be happening. It is the season when you will be transformed the most!

4. Good people have dark, rainy seasons, and bad people have rainy seasons too.

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and SENDETH RAIN ON THE JUST AND ON THE UNJUST.

Matthew 5:45

There are dark seasons of rain and storms that happen in every nation. The rainy season comes to everyone.

Perhaps, you are in a difficult time and going through a dark storm right now. It does not mean you have done something wrong. It does not mean that God is not pleased with you. It does not mean that you don't have His favour.

It means that you are getting some rain. Without the rain, you cannot grow.

5. Job had a night season. God used Job's night season to double everything he had.

Like other Old Testament heroes of the faith, Job went through a night season. Job was a famous, wealthy, successful businessman. Everything had been going great until life took a sudden downward turn.

Out of nowhere, Job came down with a very painful illness. He developed a bacteraemia and a septicaemia with boils all over his body. Job lost his business. He lost his sons and his daughters, and his whole world was turned upside down.

Was Job a sinner? Had he committed a terrible sin that was leading to all these horrible harvests? No! Job was a good man. He served the Lord with all his heart, and he had shown much compassion to the poor and

the needy. He summarised his own righteousness in the Book of Job Chapter 29.

God is showing you today that even though you have experienced something terrible, He is still with you and He is the lifter up of your head.

What happened to Job was not fair. He did not deserve any of the things that happened to him. You may also not have been treated fairly. Do not live your life being discouraged, overwhelmed and disillusioned by things that seem not to be fair.

I remember a brother whose wife died after a short illness. After the funeral, he had the opportunity to marry a nice lady friend who also liked him. Everyone waited for him to propose to the lady, but he never did until he himself developed a serious illness. The lady also developed a serious illness. He then decided to propose to the lady, but it was too late. They were both too ill to marry and cohabitate. It had taken him several years to accept the loss of his wife and accept that he needed to move on with his life.

God wants to fill your mouth with laughter. God wants to do something unusual for you. God wants to turn your mourning into dancing. After the night season, joy will come in the morning.

Do not resist God in your night season when He is bringing you twice as much as you had before. This is what happened with Job. He not only made it through the night season, but God restored double of what he had lost. He came out with twice the number of oxen, sheep, camels, and donkeys.

God always makes the enemy pay for bringing you trouble. If you walk by faith, you will not just come out of this trouble by the skin of your teeth; you will come out better than you were before!

The Scripture says, "Job lived 140 years after that, living to see four generations of his children and grandchildren. Then he died, an old man who had lived a long, full life" (Job 42:16-17 (NLT)).

6. God uses the night season to prepare for the arrival of the light.

UNTO THE UPRIGHT THERE ARISETH LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

Psalm 112:4

When darkness overtakes him, light will come bursting in. He is

kind and merciful.

Psalm 112:4 (TLB)

God has promised that light will come to you in your darkness. Light will come bursting to you in the darkness! Light always speaks of revelation, knowledge and understanding. Expect to have waves of new knowledge, new understanding, new truths and new information in your night season. Beginning from today, light will come bursting in.

7. God used the night season of Moses' life to make him the humblest man on earth.

(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

Numbers 12:3 (NIV)

In the night season, the light of humility will come rushing in. Moses made the mistake of murdering someone, and God made Moses the most humble man in the world after he made that mistake. The night season of Moses' life and ministry began when he made the mistake of murdering someone.

God has already taken into account every mistake you will ever make. God is aware of every wrong turn, every mistake, every blunder and every slip of your life.

It may look like the end, but it is not the end. God is preparing you for your comeback! It was not the end for Moses! It was the beginning of a night season of testing, proving and searching.

God was preparing Moses to be the president. His mistakes were part of the preparation. Your mistakes are part of your preparation. God uses your mistakes to keep you permanently humble. If you had not made certain mistakes, you would have been destroyed long ago through pride.

God is preparing you for something great.

8. God used the night seasons of David's life to prepare him for the anointing.

And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord. So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them

not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

1 Samuel 24:6-7

David was a fugitive in the wilderness. He spent many months running away from Saul.

David had many opportunities to attack and kill Saul but he knew that it was not the right thing to do.

When you are in your dark season, do not make even more mistakes. Do not compound the crisis you are in by making even more missteps and false steps.

The night season is to make you come out ready for the anointing.

When David passed these tests, he received the anointing to be the king. God sorted out David's problem with Saul, and David went on to lead Israel without any restraint. Allow the night seasons to work in you all that God has planned.

9. God used the night season of Jacob to visit him and bless him.

And he lighted upon a certain place, and TARRIED THERE ALL NIGHT, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:11-14

Jacob is another person who benefited from the night season. Jacob was someone who cheated people and even tricked his brother out of his inheritance.

One would expect God to avoid having anything to do with such a person. But God does not write anybody off! He keeps showing mercy and kindness until the very end.

It was in a night season that this wicked, cheating personality was transformed. One lonely night, when Jacob lay down to rest, he

considered his life with regret. He had cheated people! He had changed people's lives with his actions! There were people out there who hated him because of what he had done to them. His pillow was a hard rock.

Indeed, Jacob was in a hard place and in a night season; and that was when God spoke to him. That was when Jacob saw angels ascending and descending. It was in the night that he heard the promise of God about the land which had been promised to Abraham, his grandfather.

I have good news for you! The night season of your life will lead to your breakthrough. The night season of your life will lead you to the promises of God and to angelic interventions.

10. God put Paul and Silas through a night season and brought them out famously. We all remember the famous midnight deliverance of Paul and Silas.

> AND AT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS PRAYED, AND SANG PRAISES UNTO GOD: AND THE PRISONERS HEARD THEM. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?
>
> Acts 16:25-30

Paul and Silas had been preaching the word of God. They had been holding crusades, breakfast meetings and conferences all over Asia. What was their reward for these good works?

They were beaten with rods, imprisoned and held underground in dungeons.

They were in danger of death, and they were chained like animals in a cage.

However, it was at midnight, whilst they were singing praises to God, that there was an earthquake and the prison doors opened. God rescued them in the night season.

It is important to keep a good attitude of praise and thanksgiving in your night seasons! God really does move in the night seasons!

11. God put Adam through a night season so that He could change his life and give him love, sex, companionship and happiness.

> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
>
> Genesis 2:20-23

Expect greater and better things! Adam was created to be the king of the earth. All the animals were his subjects. He enjoyed control over wild animals, no matter what they were. Elephants, lions and leopards were his pets. He spoke to them and they simply obeyed. Wild snakes would dance at his request, just as it happens in some countries today.

The Garden of Eden was simply fantastic. Life was good for Adam. The River of Life was an experience on its own. Boats went up and down it, and the scenes were simply breathtaking. Adam did not know of any better life.

One day, God decided to put Adam to sleep, and Adam entered into a night season.

When he woke up, he saw an amazing creature, the likes of which he had never known, standing before him. A luxurious, voluptuous, delightful woman! She seemed to exude comforts such as he had never experienced before. She seemed to be softer and more delicate than himself. He was so attracted to her!

He turned to God and said, “O Lord, you have outdone yourself. This is too much.”

God smiled at Adam and said, “This is why I took you through the night season. I put you through the night season so that I could introduce you to something greater and better.” Greater and better it was, indeed!

This is exactly what is happening to you. You are being taken through a night season so that God can introduce you to something greater and better.

Chapter 14
Don't Let Fear of the River Keep You Back

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

1. Cross all the rivers you encounter!

> Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan. Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, AS SOON AS THE SOLES OF THE FEET OF THE PRIESTS THAT BEAR THE ARK OF THE LORD, THE LORD OF ALL THE EARTH, SHALL REST IN THE WATERS OF JORDAN, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.
>
> And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.
>
> Joshua 3:11-17

Cross all the rivers you encounter! Do not let the fear of any river keep you back!

Like Joshua, you must trust God when you meet the unusual, the unknown and the unfamiliar. The priests had to step into unknown waters. There are rivers you will never cross until you trust God enough to step into the unknown and uncertain waters of life.

You must overcome the fear of the unknown.

You must overcome the fear of the unusual.

God is about to do wonderful things in your life so you have to overcome all the fears. Do not let the fear of the river keep you back.

You will never know all the details of the depths of the river in front of you. You are not going to know all the details about how it is going to work out. You will never know where all the money is going to come from. Trust God and take your steps into the rivers of the unknown!

2. Take the opportunities that will never come again.

> Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, GO, GATHER TOGETHER ALL THE JEWS THAT ARE PRESENT IN SHUSHAN, AND FAST YE FOR ME, AND NEITHER EAT NOR DRINK THREE DAYS, NIGHT OR DAY: I ALSO AND MY MAIDENS WILL FAST LIKEWISE; AND SO WILL I GO IN UNTO THE KING, WHICH IS NOT ACCORDING TO THE LAW: AND IF I PERISH, I PERISH. So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.
>
> Esther 4:13-17

Like Esther, you must trust God for the opportunities that will never come again. You may never have the opportunity to serve God in this way again. Esther had the chance to go in to the king and do something to save Israel.

Opportunities that will never come again are before you right now:

The opportunity to serve God!

The opportunity to preach the gospel!

The opportunity to sing!

Your future depends on trusting God for outcomes you do not yet know. Trust God and you will bear much fruit. You must speak like Esther – "I will obey God today! If I perish, I perish!"

3. God is giving you enough light for what is just ahead.

> **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**
>
> **Psalm 119:105**

God is giving you enough light for what lies just ahead. You will have to trust Him for the rest, which remains unknown.

"A lamp" implies you have enough light to see right in front of you. God is not giving you a light that shows how your life will be for the next seventy years. Yes, you will need light for seventy years, but God is only giving you a lamp for your feet.

Perhaps you are going on a journey that is one mile long. A lamp can only give you light for about three feet ahead of you. A lamp is not intended to light up the entire mile of the road ahead.

Just as the headlights of your car cannot shine very far, the lamp of God does not show you too far ahead. The headlights of your car may only show you about thirty meters ahead; but you do not stop driving just because you cannot see your destination that is ten kilometres away.

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

Micah 7:8

It is in the midst of the darkness that God will give you His characteristic light.

When you sit in darkness, you can expect the Lord to be a light to you. Light speaks of revelation, wisdom, understanding and knowledge. God will give you fresh knowledge and revelation when you sit in darkness.

4. Do not worry if you do not know the details of the future.

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Genesis 12:1-2

God has it all planned out for you, just like He did for Abraham. Abraham had no idea of what would happen in the future, but he trusted God!

Will you trust God even though you don't have the details? Will you take that step of faith even though you're nervous, uncomfortable and unsure of how it will all work out?

5. God has planned and ordered all the steps of your future.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

6. Take a few steps into the unknown.

> And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?
>
> Matthew 14:28-31

Peter has done something none of us has ever done – he walked a few steps on water! None of the disciples ever achieved this. They probably wanted to know more details before attempting such a thing. Peter is famous today because of his ability to trust in the unknown. Peter is famous today because he took a few steps into the unknown. Perhaps this is the reason why Jesus appointed him as the head of the church.

God will do the unbelievable and the incredible if you are prepared to take a few steps into the unknown.

Chapter 15
God Will Right all the Wrongs

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Romans 12:19

To bear much fruit, you must suffer many things, including injustice. Every seed must be pushed into heat and darkness without oxygen.

1. GOD WILL TAKE REVENGE HIMSELF; HE WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

> THOU SHALT NOT AVENGE, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, BUT THOU SHALT LOVE thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord.
>
> Leviticus 19:18

God wants you to develop yourself in the love of God. God wants you to learn how to forgive and walk in love. Your duty is to love. God will take care of the revenge part. Many Christians do not understand this division of labour. Your part of the work is to love. God has assigned the "revenge" part of the work to Himself. Unfortunately, many Christians leave the love part and get themselves involved in the "revenge" part.

Every time you get involved in revenge, God is forced to pull out. Leave everything to God! God will avenge you for all the injustices and wicked things that have been done to you.

Perhaps you have been abused and used by boys. Perhaps you have been made a fool of. Perhaps you were downgraded, defiled and humiliated when you did not know what was happening to you. Perhaps there are boys who meet and have a good laugh when they remember the things they did to you and the things they made you do. To them, it was just a fleeting moment of ecstasy as they defrocked you and degraded you. But God saw everything and He has a plan to right every wrong. God is a God who rights the wrongs that have been done to people. Perhaps you want to rise up and strike at the one who humiliated you most. Do not bother to react against a man. Leave him to God!

God will right all the wrongs! God will visit the people one by one. God has a sheet of paper with the details of everything that has happened. Rest assured! It is just a matter of time! God will soon remind everyone that He is a restorer, a healer, and also a judge! God will right all the wrongs!

2. GOD SEES ALL THE INSULTS YOU HAVE ENDURED; HE WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

For we know the one who said, "I WILL TAKE REVENGE. I WILL PAY THEM BACK." He also said, "The Lord will judge his own people." It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. SOMETIMES YOU WERE EXPOSED TO PUBLIC RIDICULE AND WERE BEATEN, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. SO DO NOT THROW AWAY THIS CONFIDENT TRUST IN THE LORD. REMEMBER THE GREAT REWARD IT BRINGS YOU! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

Hebrews 10:30-36 (NLT)

God plans to pay back everyone who has harmed you. All you have to do is to maintain your faith, trust and confidence in God. God is sending a message to you right now. He says that He will revenge. He will pay them back! He will fight for you, and He will lift up your head in the land. Come next week, you will be smiling in this city and speaking of the confidence you have in God.

3. GOD WILL RESTORE EVERYTHING; HE WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

AND I WILL RESTORE TO YOU THE YEARS THAT THE LOCUST HATH EATEN, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

Joel 2:25

God is going to right all the wrong things that have been done to you. God is going to restore all you have lost. I know you think that you can never get back what you have lost. Perhaps you feel like Humpty Dumpty, who sat on a wall and had a great fall; and all the king's

horses and all the king's men could not put Humpty Dumpty together again*. But God is greater than all the king's horses and all the king's men who could not put Humpty Dumpty together again. God has special powers of restoration and redemption. That is why He is called the Redeemer. Jesus is the real Saviour! He is the Restorer. He is the Redeemer.

I once heard of someone who called himself the saviour and the redeemer of his nation. However, there is only one Saviour and one Redeemer! Ultimately, this human saviour was not even able to save himself.

I have good news for you! God is your Saviour and your Restorer! God will use His special redemptive and restorative powers on your case. He will turn everything around for your good. God will right all the wrongs that have been done to you! God is just about to move on all your issues for good. May the Lord remember you for good!

*A popular nursery rhyme

4. GOD WILL COMPENSATE YOU; HE WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.

Exodus 22:1

Because you got a double dose of trouble and more than your share of contempt, YOUR INHERITANCE IN THE LAND WILL BE DOUBLED AND YOUR JOY GO ON FOREVER.

Isaiah 61:7 (MSG)

God is actually going to compensate you! In addition to restoring your losses, God will compensate you.

God's nature is to restore. That means that apart from restoring your losses, He will give you something extra to comfort and console you. Keep watching as God compensates you! The principle of compensation is from the law and the prophets.

5. GOD SEES ALL THE MOCKERS IN YOUR LIFE; HE WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid. And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, WHAT IS THIS THOU HAST DONE UNTO ME? DID

> NOT I SERVE WITH THEE FOR RACHEL? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.
>
> Genesis 29:23-27

> AND WHEN THE LORD SAW THAT LEAH WAS HATED, HE OPENED HER WOMB: but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the Lord hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the Lord hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.
>
> Genesis 29:31-33

God reacted to those who mocked Leah. God will react to your mockers.

Are people laughing at you today? God sees it all, and God will react to all of them. God will right all the wrongs that have been done to you.

God is a God of justice, and He will right all the wrongs. God is going to deal with all those who have mocked you. All your mockers will be ashamed.

Are people making fun of you? Are they laughing at you because of something that you cannot even control? Are you different from everyone else? Do you feel strange when you are in a group? Do not worry! Jesus knows exactly how you feel. God knows exactly why you are being mocked. He sees all the cackling and hooting by your mockers, and God does not like it when He hears the sound of that laughter.

God does not like it that you are being mocked.

He sees those who are mocking you.

God reacts to such things. I tell you, God understands why you are being mocked.

Leah was so embarrassed when Jacob found out that she was not Rachel. Jacob may have insulted her for allowing herself to be used as a false bride, knowing well that it was Rachel that he loved. I can imagine Jacob pacing up and down in the room with Leah sitting on the bed, crying, and afraid. She was a complete reject!

Leah must have felt so rejected at Jacob's reaction to finding out she was

not Rachel -she was rejected, unwanted and embarrassed. But God noticed how Leah was rejected and mocked through no fault of hers.

God sees all the mockers and despisers of your life, and He will right the wrongs! God gave Leah children, whilst Rachel was unable to have a child. God opened Leah's womb because He did not like the way she was being treated. God does not like it when people mock you for things that are no fault of yours.

6. GOD SEES YOU CRYING; HE WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, AND THEY CRIED, AND THEIR CRY CAME UP UNTO GOD BY REASON OF THE BONDAGE. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

Exodus 2:23-25

God sees all the injustices in your life. God sees all the unfair things that have happened. God has seen all the things that have happened to make you cry so much. God is going to deal with all those who have made you cry.

God saw how the Israelites were being treated. He knew that it was not right for them to be kept in bondage and made to work like slaves. God knew that they had not done anything bad to Egypt to deserve such treatment. God was not happy that His children were suffering so much. God is provoked when He sees you struggling and suffering under a bad and wicked leader. God is not happy that you are living under oppressive leadership. God is going to right all the wrongs!

God sees all the injustices that have been done to you in secret. No one sees it as much as God sees it. God will correct it. God will change it! God will make something good come out of everything bad that is happening. This is what happened to the Israelites. Because of their sufferings in Egypt, God decided to give them a brand-new land flowing with milk and honey. It is because of your hardships and difficulties that the new promised land will be uncovered. Get ready to experience the promised land! God is going to right all the wrongs! You will not believe how God will change your circumstances. From a land flowing with rivers of water, he is going to give you a land flowing with milk and honey! Imagine that!

God sees you suffering in Egypt. He sees the River Nile which you are working by, and has decided to change your river from a river of water to a river of milk and honey. God has really good thoughts for you! He really seeks to change your life and right all the wrongs.

Expect good things! Expect great things! Expect God to turn things around. God is great! God is "wild"! God sees all the injustices in your life. God sees all the things that have made you cry and weep and wail. God sees all the unfair and unfortunate experiences that you have had. God will correct everything for your sake.

7. GOD SEES ALL THE INJUSTICES; HE WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Luke 18:2-7

God knows what is happening to you because you are as helpless as a widow. God plans to correct them like a judge who brings justice. God knows how helpless you are. God sees that you are just like a widow. You may not be called a widow but you are just like a widow because you do not have anyone to help you. It is not right that you should be alone. God is going to right all the wrongs! Perhaps you were supposed to marry someone, but they ended up not marrying you. Perhaps you were abandoned by your lover and now you are all alone, just like a widow. God sees the wrong things that have been done to you. God knows how you feel and He has decided to right all the wrongs.

God is like a judge who avenges the weak and the vulnerable. God can see that you cannot do much for yourself. Perhaps you are sick and weak, and there is no one to help you. You must trust God to right all the wrongs. Perhaps you never smoked a cigarette, unlike your friend smoked many cigarettes, but now you have cancer of the lungs. Why did you get this cancer? What did you do to deserve it? God sees all the wrongs that have happened and He is going to right all the wrongs.

8. GOD IS NOTING ALL THE DETAILS OF THE EVILS DONE AGAINST YOU; HE WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

> And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. FOR THEY HAVE SHED THE BLOOD OF SAINTS AND PROPHETS, AND THOU HAST GIVEN THEM BLOOD TO DRINK; FOR THEY ARE WORTHY.
>
> Revelation 16:1-6

God is noting the details of the wickedness that has been done against you and plans to pay back the evil done to you in exactly the same way it was done to you. Notice how God gives the people blood to drink because they shed the saints' blood. God punishes people according to exactly what they have done. God will right all the wrongs done against you. Do not be worried about whether God can see everything. God knows more details than you do.

Perhaps you kept yourself a virgin whilst your friends gave themselves to many boys. Now all your friends have children, but you do not. God can see what has happened, and He intends to right all the wrongs.

Perhaps your boyfriend made you abort all your pregnancies, and today you are barren. Perhaps you are crying because your womb has been damaged through multiple abortions that your boyfriends forced you to do. God is going to right all the wrongs. God knows the details. God knows who is right and who is wrong. God is going to correct everything that is putting you in a bad light.

God loves you very much. He knows the shame that you have endured, and He will arise suddenly and correct the wrong impressions that have been made about you. God is really powerful! God is going to change the picture. You will no longer be associated with failure and embarrassment. Whatever represents shame is being taken away from you right now!

9. GOD HAS SET A TIME TO PUNISH AND AVENGE THE WRONGS DONE; GOD WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Romans 12:19

My friends, don't try to punish anyone who does wrong to you. Wait for God to punish them with his anger. In the Scriptures the Lord says, "I AM THE ONE WHO PUNISHES; I will pay people back."

Deuteronomy 32:35 (ERV)

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for God's wrath [and His judicial righteousness]; for it is written [in Scripture], "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

Deuteronomy 32:35 (AMP)

Dear friends, don't try to get even. LET GOD TAKE REVENGE. In the Scriptures the Lord says, "I am the one to take revenge and pay them back."

Deuteronomy 32:35 (CEV)

Do not be confused about God's timing. Do not even think that God is delaying anything. Do not interfere with God's revenge plan. Give place, chance and opportunity for the wrath of God.

10. GOD ALLOWS PEOPLE TO FULFIL SCRIPTURES SO THAT HE CAN JUDGE THEM; GOD WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

"If anyone sins against someone else, God can defend the one who is wrong; but who can defend someone who sins against the LORD?" BUT THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN TO THEIR FATHER, FOR THE LORD HAD DECIDED TO KILL THEM.

1 Samuel 2:25 (GNB)

God allows people to fulfil scriptures, and then He judges them. The sons of Eli were destined for death and judgment. God had decided to destroy them, and that is actually why they would not listen to their father nor honour him.

Do not be sad when people do not honour God or honour you. Do not be sad when your sons do not do the right thing. There are sons who dishonour fathers and are destined for judgment. It is not because you are not a good father that your sons are not honouring God or honouring you. It is not because you are not a good mother that your

sons are not honouring God or honouring you. Perhaps it is because God wants to judge them. God needs a legal basis to act against them. God will right all the wrongs. At the right time, God moved on Eli's sons and dealt with them.

> Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord's people to transgress. If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the Lord would slay them.
>
> 1 Samuel 2:22-25

11. GOD WILL ALLOW THE CUP OF EVIL TO BE FULL BEFORE HE JUDGES PEOPLE.

> And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: FOR THE INIQUITY OF THE AMORITES IS NOT YET FULL.
>
> Genesis 15:13-16

God will definitely right all the wrongs. People have to be guilty enough before they are judged. God is going to wait for the iniquity of the Amorites to be full. Sometimes, a person may have committed a crime but it is not a big enough crime to send the person to jail. This is why God holds on with His judgment. He is waiting for the crimes and sins of your enemy to be up to the level where He can destroy them utterly. God is a God of justice, and you will learn to appreciate that. He will not do anything bad to your enemy if your enemy does not deserve it. That is why He waited so long for the Amorites to commit sins up to a certain level before their judgment.

> **Your children's grandchildren will come back here. That is because THE SIN OF THE AMORITES HAS NOT YET REACHED THE POINT WHERE I MUST JUDGE THEM.**
>
> **Genesis 15:16 (NIrV)**

After four generations your people will come to this land again and defeat the Amorites. That will happen in the future BECAUSE THE AMORITES ARE NOT YET GUILTY ENOUGH to lose their land.

Genesis 15:16 (ERV)

12. GOD ALLOWS PEOPLE TO BE STUBBORN, SO HE CAN JUDGE THEM; GOD WILL RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS.

Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites the inhabitants of Gibeon: all other they took in battle. FOR IT WAS OF THE LORD TO HARDEN THEIR HEARTS, THAT THEY SHOULD COME AGAINST ISRAEL IN BATTLE, THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THEM UTTERLY, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE NO FAVOUR, BUT THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THEM, as the Lord commanded Moses. And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities. There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained. So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

Joshua 11:18-23

THE LORD HAD MADE THEM DETERMINED TO FIGHT THE ISRAELITES, SO THAT THEY WOULD BE CONDEMNED TO TOTAL DESTRUCTION AND ALL BE KILLED WITHOUT MERCY. This was what the LORD had commanded Moses.

Joshua 11:20 (GNT)

THE LORD MADE THEIR ENEMIES STUBBORN enough to continue fighting against Israel so that he could claim them all for destruction without mercy, as he had commanded Moses.

Joshua 11:20 (GW)

Never think that God does not know what is being done against you. God listens to every conversation. God knows those who hate you so much. God does not like the people who hate you. God is not happy with the people who persecute you. The time is coming when He will arise and destroy your enemies.

God has decided to destroy your enemies, and so He has caused them to harden their hearts. God needs a reason to destroy your enemies. God cannot just rise and destroy people. There must be some good reason for Him to act. This is why your enemies have hardened their hearts. The reason why the fight is not over is because God wants them to be destroyed in the battle. I predict that your enemies will harden their hearts until the time of their judgment.

The prolonging of the war and the conflict is not because you are too weak to overcome the enemy. You are stronger than your enemy, but God does not want the conflict to end just yet. He wants it to carry on so that He can count the months and years they have caused trouble for you and use it as a basis to destroy them. Do not worry at all! God is going to right all the wrongs in your life. Keep watching!

Chapter 16
Stop Crying Over Failure

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

A seed will not bear fruit as long as it is sitting on a shelf in a shop somewhere. This is why a seed must fall into the ground and be allowed to die, far away and out of view. To bear much fruit, the seed must be pushed out and buried deep into the ground.

1. Stop crying over a failure like Saul.

And the Lord said unto Samuel, HOW LONG WILT THOU MOURN FOR SAUL, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1 Samuel 16:1

Stop crying over a failure like Saul.

God will remove Saul to bring in David.

Stop crying over someone like Saul who left his calling.

Stop crying over someone like Saul who has wasted your time.

Stop complaining about people who have wasted your love and investment.

Stop crying over the disappointments.

God is using it to bring about something newer and better.

Fruit is coming!

The chosen one is coming!

God has something greater and better for the future.

You are about to step up to a higher level.

People with greater talents are about to walk into your life.

God is showing you new possibilities. You knew about Saul, but there are people like David who are equally important for your life.

Do not complain!

God is stretching you! God is enlarging you! You are about to see new people, new children, new growth, new opportunities and new levels of happiness.

2. God is pushing you out of the nest like an eagle.

> AS AN EAGLE STIRRETH UP HER NEST, FLUTTERETH OVER HER YOUNG, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;
>
> Deuteronomy 32:11-13

The higher qualities of an eagle are going to come forth when you are stirred up in the nest and made to fly up to higher grounds. God is stirring you up and out of the nest!

By pushing you out of your resting place, God is releasing in you the ability to fly, to soar, to move faster and to have supernatural agility and mobility. You will never develop these abilities until God pushes you out into the frightening new experiences you are now having!

Not every closed door is a bad thing.

When someone walks away from your life, it is not necessarily a tragedy. Sometimes God is pruning your life so that you can bear much fruit. God is pushing you on, and He is taking you to a better place.

Indeed, you cannot succeed with some of the people you are with now. When someone walks away from you, it is not necessarily a bad thing. Perhaps it is intended to make you stronger. The problems you have experienced are to push you forward and to mature you.

3. God will use your crisis to give you more.

> And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over

all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So THE LORD BLESSED THE LATTER END OF JOB MORE THAN HIS BEGINNING: FOR HE HAD FOURTEEN THOUSAND SHEEP, AND SIX THOUSAND CAMELS, AND A THOUSAND YOKE OF OXEN, AND A THOUSAND SHE ASSES. HE HAD ALSO SEVEN SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS. AND HE CALLED THE NAME OF THE FIRST, JEMIMA; AND THE NAME OF THE SECOND, KEZIA; AND THE NAME OF THE THIRD, KEREN-HAPPUCH. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days.

Job 42:10-17

God will give you much more than you have now. If you can overcome the sorrow and shame and still have a good attitude, many blessings will come to you.

Instead of crying over spilt milk, have faith in God. Believe that whatever has happened has not happened without God's supernatural hand guiding everything.

When you face something you do not understand, remember that Job faced a crisis that he did not understand. A crisis only happens within the limits of what God allows. You must believe that God is using your current crisis to push you to a new level.

God used Job's crisis to push him to a new level of wealth and influence. I prophesy to you that your problems are going to lead to greater and better things. Nothing is going to defeat you. You are actually standing on the stepping stone to a new level of glory.

4. God will push you out of Jerusalem to bring you to Samaria.

As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

God pushed Philip out of Jerusalem. There was a crisis in the church, and Philip was forced to flee. Perhaps circumstances have arisen in your life which are forcing you to move on. But there is another side to your crisis, just as there was another side to Philip's crisis. Jerusalem may be closing down, but Samaria is opening up!

God was actually pushing Philip out of Jerusalem so that He could introduce him to Samaria. In Samaria, Philip was going to enter fully into the ministry of an evangelist. What happened in Samaria is the only recorded account of an evangelistic crusade in the Bible.

Jerusalem was closing down to Philip but Samaria was opening up with new chapters and dimensions for the ministry. Maybe you have been forced to leave Jerusalem because of some unfortunate happenings. I prophesy that the Samaria ministry of world-class evangelism will be opening up to you as the Jerusalem ministry of pastoral work is closing to you. Indeed, Jerusalem may be closing down, but Samaria is opening up!

5. God will use the winds and storms to blow you into Malta.

> But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive. And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat: But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.
>
> Acts 27:14-16, 21-24

God will use winds and storms to blow you to your destiny just like He blew Paul to Malta. God will use the winds that were meant to harm you to push you into your destiny.

You may not understand the kind of storms and the kind of winds that are blowing in your life today.

It may be painful and miserable, but if you keep the right attitude, the storm will not defeat you.

Instead, the storm will be used to take you to the place of your destiny.

6. God will use captivity to change your scent.

> **Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, NEITHER HATH HE GONE INTO CAPTIVITY: THEREFORE HIS TASTE REMAINED IN HIM, AND HIS SCENT IS NOT CHANGED. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles.**
>
> **Jeremiah 48:11-12**

When God changes your scent, He makes you more acceptable and more usable in the ministry.

Captivity is a restriction that is painful to endure. Some believe that life in prison is more difficult than being sentenced to death. I know someone who has been sentenced to a prison measuring seven by eleven feet for the rest of his existence on earth. People go mad in these places. Captivity is no small experience.

Many people go crazy in captivity and all they want to do is to escape. God will use captivity to change your very nature. The restrictions you have today are not going to destroy you! The restrictions are going to make you into a better person and they are going to change your very nature.

Chapter 17
You Will Experience Wound Healing

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, THAT YE MAY BE HEALED. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16

You will be healed from your deadly wounds! Whatever has hurt you and wounded you in this life will not be able to destroy you. God has a plan to heal your wounds. Throughout this chapter, you will see many people who were healed of their deadly wounds. Being able to be healed of your deadly wounds is a sign of spiritual victory.

Expect to be hurt! But also expect to be healed. You will come out of the deepest hole and become a better person. You will be a healed person who has recovered nicely.

Perhaps, you met people who dragged you down into a pit. Today, you cannot imagine how you will recover from being in those pits. Your soul is wounded! Your heart is bleeding! But God will heal you of your wounds.

Watching people recover from surgery is watching a miracle of wound healing. Sometimes, a surgeon's knife cuts so deep and so wide that you wonder how anyone could recover from the cut. And yet, within three days, you will see this same person standing up and walking around as though nothing major had happened.

1. Wounds and offences are part of this life!

> But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!
>
> Matthew 18:6-7

If you are part of this life, you will one day need healing of your wounds. Confess your faults one to another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. If you are part of this life, expect to be hurt and expect to be wounded. Many things will hurt you. If you are in the

ministry, expect to be hurt and wounded by fellow pastors. If you are married, expect to be wounded by your spouse. If you are in business, expect to be hurt and wounded in the business world.

2. All spiritual wounds must be healed!

> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; HE HATH SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKEN HEARTED, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
>
> Luke 4:18-19

Your broken heart must be healed! Your spiritual wounds must be healed! You will not bear fruit until you endure offences well and come out perfectly healed. You are healed when you are no longer bitter.

The scripture James 1:4, is clear on how you are supposed to come out of the tests of your life. You are supposed to come out with patience. (Patience means cheerful, hopeful endurance.) You must be someone who is cheerful and hopeful after enduring a crisis. Are you cheerful? Are you hopeful? Are you enduring what God is expecting you to endure and coming out with hope and cheerfulness?

> But let patience [CHEERFUL HOPEFUL ENDURANCE] have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
>
> James 1:4

"Cheerful and hopeful" is the sign of wound healing. Depression and hopelessness are signs of unhealed wounds. Lack of joy and happiness are signs that the wound is not yet healed.

It is time to consider yourself fortunate for having had all these trials. It is time to consider yourself fortunate for having had all these tests. It is good news that you are being severely tested and tried.

> **My brothers and sisters, be very happy when you are tested in different ways.**
>
> **James 1:2 (GW)**

3. Wound healing is a great achievement. The beast in the Book of Revelation experienced wound healing and the world was impressed at its ability to be healed.

> And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

AND THE BEAST WHICH I SAW was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

AND I SAW ONE OF HIS HEADS AS IT WERE WOUNDED TO DEATH; AND HIS DEADLY WOUND WAS HEALED: AND ALL THE WORLD WONDERED AFTER THE BEAST.

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Revelation 13:1-5

You will experience things that will hurt you and wound you severely. It is your ability to be healed that matters. The beast in the Book of Revelation was wounded but managed to get itself healed. It was that healing of the beast that impressed the world.

Even the beast achieved wound healing! Even the devil knows the importance of wound healing. Until you go through your deadly wounds and get healed, you will not be impressive in the realm of the spirit.

It is important to be healed because it is a great spiritual achievement to overcome your hurts and wounds. It is a great spiritual achievement to be healed.

4. Joseph was wounded! Joseph experienced wound healing and impressed the world.

Joseph did not bear fruit until his deadly wound was healed. Joseph was wounded severely, but God healed him and gave him a double portion. Joseph needed to be healed from the betrayal of his brothers.

Joseph experienced wickedness from his brothers and needed to be healed from the wickedness of his brothers.

Joseph became a slave at a point in his life. He needed to be healed of the experience of being a slave.

Joseph became a prisoner. He needed to be healed of the experience of being a prisoner.

Joseph experienced the deception of a woman. Joseph needed to be healed of that experience.

Joseph was forgotten by the butler and left to languish in the prison for an extra two years. He needed healing from the pain of being forgotten by people.

Joseph spent twelve years in prison. Joseph experienced the hatred of human beings. Indeed, he was sorely grieved and hurt. If you have experienced any of these different things, you are just like Joseph.

Yet, Joseph was healed and God used him to save Israel. Read for yourself how he was sorely grieved and yet remained strong.

> Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: THE ARCHERS HAVE SORELY GRIEVED HIM, AND SHOT AT HIM, AND HATED HIM: BUT HIS BOW ABODE IN STRENGTH, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: THE BLESSINGS OF THY FATHER HAVE PREVAILED above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.
>
> Genesis 49:22-26

"But his bow abode in strength"! The blessings of God prevailed and helped him to overcome the multiple sores, wounds and injuries that he received in his life and ministry.

This is what is going to happen to you, too. You are coming out with the blessings of God.

You may have had a terrible experience in your relationship or in your marriage. Do not stay down! You must abide in strength.

Let your bow abide in strength. Let your arms be strong because God will help you and God will bless you.

The help of God and the blessing of God will keep you. You will remain forgiving and loving to the end.

> And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father. And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him. And they sent a messenger unto

Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? BUT AS FOR YOU, YE THOUGHT EVIL AGAINST ME; BUT GOD MEANT IT UNTO GOOD, TO BRING TO PASS, AS IT IS THIS DAY, TO SAVE MUCH PEOPLE ALIVE. NOW THEREFORE FEAR YE NOT: I WILL NOURISH YOU, AND YOUR LITTLE ONES. AND HE COMFORTED THEM, AND SPAKE KINDLY UNTO THEM. And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years. And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees.

Genesis 50:14-23

5. Jacob was wounded! Jacob had a limp. Jacob experienced wound healing! He was wounded by an angel in a battle.

Most fruitful people have a limp, a scar and a sign that they have been in a battle before. The presence of a limp or a scar is a sign of the experiences they have survived.

The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and HE WAS LIMPING BECAUSE OF HIS HIP. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

Genesis 32:31-32 (NIV)

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the

place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

Genesis 32:24-30

6. Job was wounded. Job recovered from the wounds of his family tragedies.

God will give you much more than you have now if you can overcome your difficulty with a good attitude. Job's good attitude is revealed in that he stopped his wife and friends from speaking in the wrong way. Job was on his way to a greater life with more abundance and a greater and better family. He needed to maintain a good attitude throughout his crises. He needed to fight bad attitudes in all the people around him.

Job Stops His Wife from Speaking Nonsense

So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. BUT HE SAID UNTO HER, THOU SPEAKEST AS ONE OF THE FOOLISH WOMEN SPEAKETH. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Job 2:7-10

Job Stops His Friends from Speaking Nonsense

WILL YOU SPEAK WICKEDLY ON GOD'S BEHALF? WILL YOU SPEAK DECEITFULLY FOR HIM? Will you show him partiality? Will you argue the case for God? WOULD IT TURN OUT WELL IF HE EXAMINED YOU? Could you deceive him as you might deceive a mortal? He would surely call you to account if you secretly showed partiality. Would not his splendor terrify you? Would not the dread of him fall on you? YOUR MAXIMS ARE PROVERBS OF ASHES; YOUR DEFENSES ARE DEFENSES OF CLAY.

Job 13:7-12 (NIV)

And Job answered and said, NO DOUBT BUT YE ARE THE PEOPLE, AND WISDOM SHALL DIE WITH YOU. But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you: yea, who knoweth not such things as these?

Then Job responded, "I have heard many things like these; Miserable comforters are you all! "IS THERE NO END TO WINDY WORDS? OR WHAT PROVOKES YOU THAT YOU ANSWER?

Job 16:1-3 (NASB)

Job Had Wound Healing

And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.

So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Keren-happuch. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days.

Job 42:10-17

7. **Jesus was wounded! Jesus experienced wound healing! Surviving wounds of crucifixion gave Jesus the scars He had.** A scar is the evidence of a healed wound. It is through the scars of Jesus that we know He was healed of His terrible wounds. The wounds you are healed from will be the basis of your ministry. Unless you can recover from certain things, you will not be qualified to talk about them with authority. A soldier who has learned about war in a classroom is different from someone who has been wounded on the front line.

   Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. BUT HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES: THE CHASTISEMENT OF OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM; AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his

own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to THOMAS, REACH HITHER THY FINGER, AND BEHOLD MY HANDS; AND REACH HITHER THY HAND, AND THRUST IT INTO MY SIDE: AND BE NOT FAITHLESS, BUT BELIEVING. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

John 20:26-29

Your wounds are healed! You are coming out shining, and the world is going to wonder how someone could survive what you have been through.

You are a walking miracle!

God is working out your miracle healing.

You will live again!

You have a greater and better season just ahead!

"And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."
Ecclesiastes 12:12